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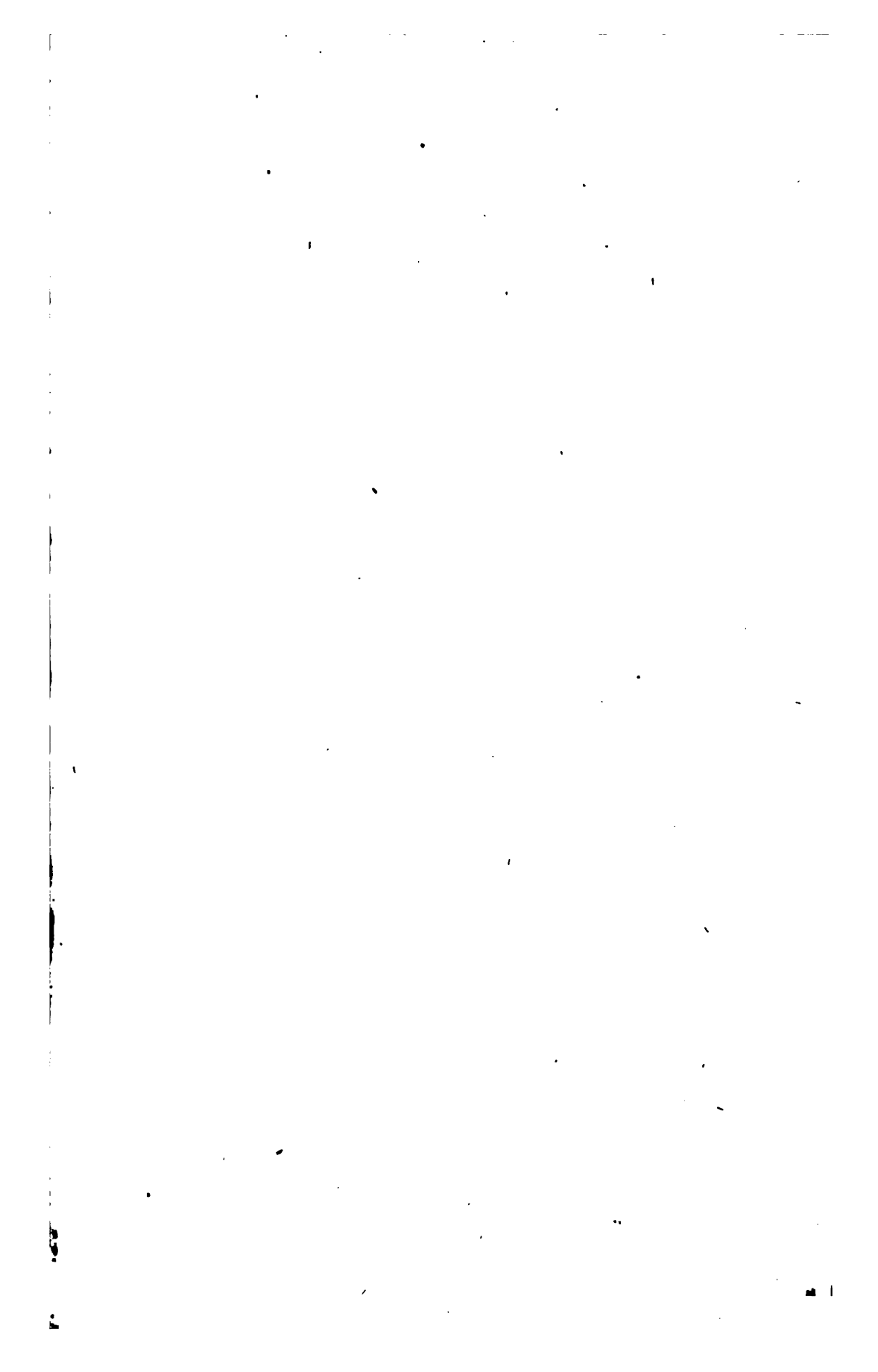
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# HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.

WITH

THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY

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"Vastissimi studii primas quasi lineas circumscripsi."—HALLER.  
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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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# HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.

## BOOK II.

### CHAPTER III.

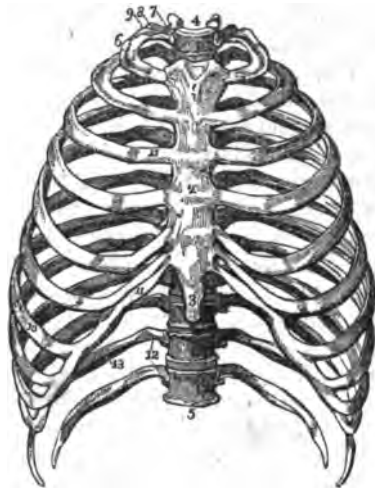
#### RESPIRATION.

THE consideration of the function of absorption has shown us how the different products of nutritive absorption reach the venous blood.

By simple admixture with this fluid they do not become converted into a substance, capable of supplying the losses, sustained by the frame from the different excretions. Nothing is better established than the fact, that no being, and no part of any being, can continue its functions unless supplied with blood, which has become *arterial* by exposure to air. It is in the lungs, that the absorbed matters undergo their final conversion into that fluid,—by a function, which has been termed *hæmatosis*, and which is the great object of that we have now to investigate—*Respiration*. This conversion is occasioned by the venous blood of the pulmonary vessels coming in contact with the air in the air-cells of the lungs, during which contact, the blood gives to the air some of its constituents, and, in return, the air parts with its elements to the blood.

To comprehend this mysterious process, we must be acquainted with the pulmonary apparatus, as well as with the properties of atmospheric air, and the mode in which the contact between it and the blood is effected.

Fig. 195.



Anterior view of Thorax.

1. Superior piece of sternum. 2. Middle piece. 3. Inferior piece, or ensiform cartilage.
4. First dorsal vertebra. 5. Last dorsal vertebra. 6. First rib. 7. Its head. 8. Its neck, resting against transverse process of first dorsal vertebra. 9. Its tuberosity. 10. Seventh or last true rib. 11. Costal cartilages of true ribs. 12. Two last false ribs—floating ribs. 13. The groove along lower border of rib for lodgment of intercostal vessels and nerve.

## 1. ANATOMY OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

The *thorax* or *chest* contains the lungs, which are the great agents of respiration. It is of a conical shape, the apex of the cone being formed by the neck, and the base by a muscle, which has already been referred to more than once,—the *diaphragm*.

The osseous framework, Fig. 195, is formed, *posteriorly*, of twelve dorsal vertebræ: *anteriorly*, of the sternum, originally composed of eight or nine pieces; and *laterally*, of twelve ribs on each side, passing from the vertebræ to, or towards, the sternum. Of these, the seven uppermost extend the whole distance from the spine to the breast-bone, and are called the *true* or *sternal ribs*; sometimes, the *vertebro-sternal*. They become larger as they descend, and are situated more obliquely in regard to the spine. The other five, called *false* or *asternal*, do not proceed as far as the sternum; but the cartilages of three of them join that of the seventh true rib, whilst the two lowest have no union with those above them, and are therefore called *floating ribs*. These false ribs become shorter and shorter as they descend; so that the seventh true rib may be regarded as the common base of two cones, formed by the true and false ribs respectively.

The different bones constituting the thorax are so articulated as to admit of motion, and thus to allow of dilatation and contraction, of the cavity.

The motion of the vertebræ on each other has been described under another head. It is not materially concerned in the respiratory movements. The articulation of the ribs with the spine and sternum demands attention. They are articulated with the spine in two places,—at the *capitulum* or head, and at the *tubercle*. In the former of these, the extremity of the ribs, encrusted with cartilage, is received into a depression, similarly encrusted, at the side of the spine. One half of this depression is in the body of the upper vertebra; the other half in the one beneath it; and, consequently, partly in the intervertebral fibro-cartilage between the two. The joint is rendered secure by various ligaments; but it can move readily up and down on the spine. In the first, eleventh, and twelfth ribs, the articulations are with single vertebræ respectively. In the second articulation, the tubercle of the rib, also encrusted with cartilage, is received into a cavity in the transverse process of each corresponding vertebra; and the joint is rendered strong by three distinct ligaments. In the eleventh and twelfth ribs, this articulation is wanting. The articulation of the ribs with the sternum is effected by an intermediate cartilage, which becomes gradually longer, from the first to the tenth ribs, as seen in Fig. 195. The end of the cartilage is received into a cavity at the side of the sternum; and the junction is strengthened by an anterior and a posterior ligament. This articulation does not admit of much motion; but the existence of a synovial membrane shows, that it is destined for some.

The cavity of the thorax is completed by muscles. In the intervals between the ribs are two planes of muscles, whose fibres pass in inverse directions, and cross each other. These are the *intercostal*

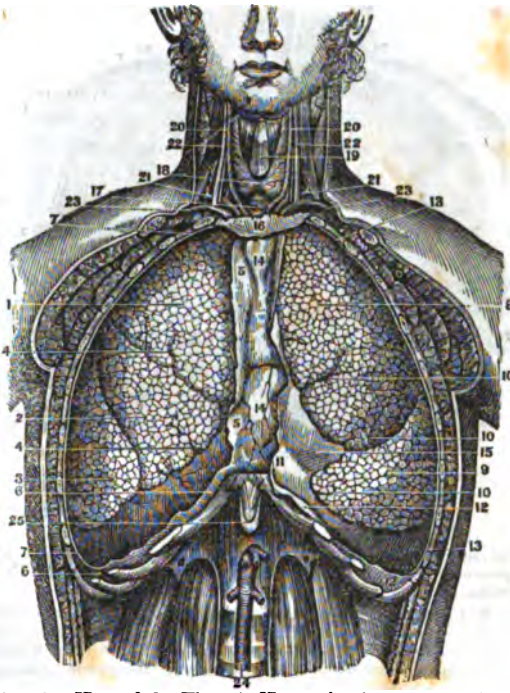
*muscles.* The diaphragm forms the septum between the thorax and abdomen. Above, the cavity is open; and through the opening numerous vessels and nerves enter.

The muscles, concerned in the respiratory function, are numerous. The most important of these is the *diaphragm*. It is attached, by its circumference, around the base of the chest; but its centre rises into the thorax; and, during its state of relaxation, forms an arch, the middle of which is opposite the inferior extremity of the sternum. It is tendinous in its centre, and is attached by two fasciculi, called *pillars*, to the spine,—to the bodies of the two first lumbar vertebræ.

It has three apertures; one before for the passage of the vena cava inferior; and two behind, between the pillars, for the passage of the œsophagus and aorta. The other great muscles of respiration are the *serratus posticus inferior*, the *serratus posticus superior*, the *levator costarum*, the *intercostal muscles*, the *infra-costales* and the *triangularis sterni* or *sterno-costalis*; but, in an excited condition of respiration, all the muscles, that raise and depress the ribs, directly or indirectly, participate — as the *scaleni*, *sterno-mastoidei*, *pectoralis*, (*major* and *minor*), *serratus major anticus*, *abdominal muscles*, &c.

In the structure of the *lungs*, as Magen-<sup>die</sup> has remarked, nature has resolved a mechanical problem of extreme difficulty. The problem was,—to esta-

Fig. 196.



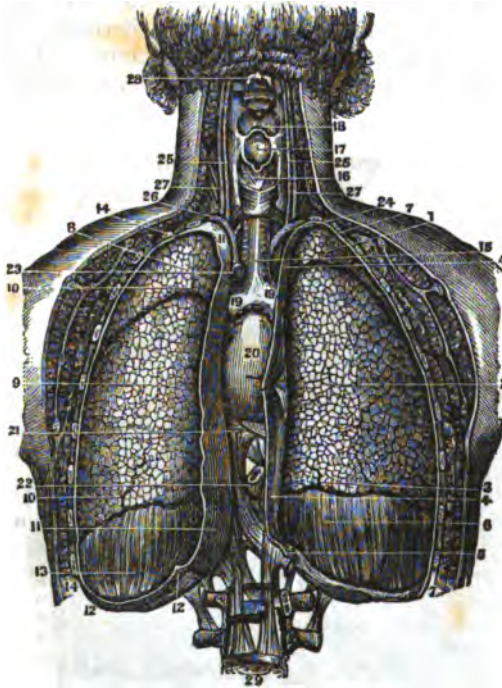
Anterior View of the Thoracic Viscera in situ, as shown by the removal of their Anterior Parietes.

1. Superior lobe of right lung. 2. Its middle lobe. 3. Its inferior lobe. 4, 4. Lobular fissures. 5, 5. Internal layer of costal pleura forming the right side of the anterior mediastinum. 6, 6. Right diaphragmatic portion of pleura costalis. 7, 7. Right pleura costalis on the ribs. 8. Superior lobe of left lung. 9. Its inferior lobe. 10, 10. Interlobular fissures. 11. Portion of pleura costalis which forms the left side of the anterior mediastinum. 12. Left diaphragmatic portion of pleura costalis. 13. Left pleura costalis. 14, 14. The middle space between the pleura, known as the anterior mediastinum. 15. Pericardium. 16. Fibrous partition over which the pleurae are reflected. 17. Trachea. 18. Thyroid gland. 19. Anterior portion of thyroid cartilage. 20. Primitive carotid artery. 21. Subclavian vein. 22. Internal jugular vein. 23. Brachio-cephalic vein. 24. Abdominal aorta. 25. Xiphoid cartilage.

<sup>a</sup> Précis, &c. ii. 307.

blish an immense surface of contact between the blood and the air, in the small space occupied by the lungs. The admirable arrangement adopted consists in this,—that each of the minute vessels, in which the pulmonary artery terminates and the pulmonary veins originate, is

Fig. 197.



*Posterior View of the Thoracic Viscera, showing their relative positions by the removal of the Posterior Portion of their Parietes.*

1, 2. Upper and lower lobes of right lung. 3. Interlobular fissures. 4. Internal portion of pleura costalis, forming one of the sides of posterior mediastinum. 5. Twelfth rib and lesser diaphragm. 6. Reflection of the pleura over the greater muscle of the diaphragm on the right side. 7, 7. Right pleura costalis adhering to the ribs. 8, 9. The two lobes of the left lung. 10, 10. Interlobular fissures. 11, 11. Left pleura, forming the parietes of the posterior mediastinum. 12, 13. Its reflections over the diaphragm on this side. 14, 14. Left pleura costalis on the parietes of the chest. 15. Trachea. 16. Larynx. 17. Opening of the larynx and the epiglottic cartilage in situ. 18. Root and top of the tongue. 19, 19. Right and left bronchia. 20. The heart enclosed in pericardium. 21. Upper portion of diaphragm on which it rests. 22. Section of oesophagus. 23. Section of aorta. 24. Arteria innominata. 25. Primitive carotid arteries. 26. Subclavian arteries. 27. Internal jugular veins. 28. Second cervical vertebra. 29. Fourth lumbar.

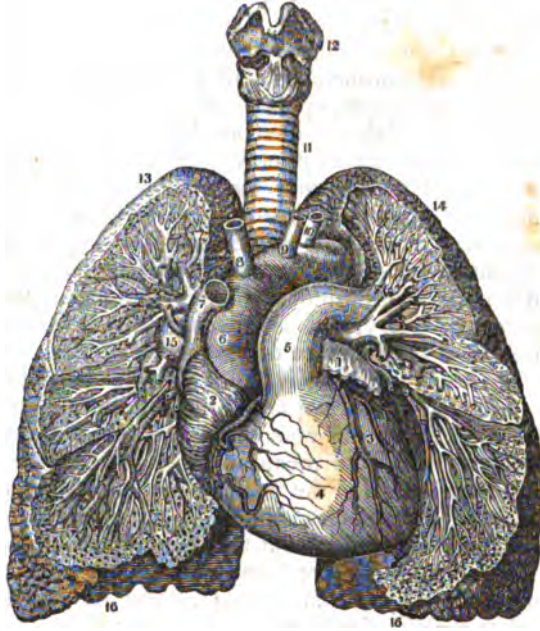
surrounded on every side by the air. The lungs are two organs of considerable size, situate in the lateral parts of the chest, and subdivided into lobes and lobules, the shape and number of which cannot be readily determined. They are termed *right* and *left*, respectively, according to the side of the cavity of the chest which they occupy. The former consists of three lobes; the latter of two. Each of these exactly fills the corresponding cavity of the pleura; and they are separated from each other by a duplicature of the pleura—(the serous membrane that lines the chest, and is reflected over the lungs)—and by the heart. The colour of the lungs is generally of a marble blue; and the exterior is furrowed by figures of an hexagonal shape. The appearance is not, however, the same at all ages, and under all circumstances. In infancy, they are of a pale

red; in youth, of a darker colour; and in old age, of a livid blue.

The elements that compose the lungs are;—the ramifications of the trachea; those of the pulmonary artery and of the pulmonary veins, besides the organic elements, that appertain to every living structure,

—arteries, veins, lymphatics, nerves, and cellular tissue. The ramifications of the windpipe form the cavity of the organ of respiration. The trachea is continuous with the larynx, from which it receives the external air conveyed to it by the mouth and nose. It passes down to the thorax, at the anterior part of the neck, and bifurcates opposite the second dorsal vertebra, forming two large canals called *bronchi* or *bronchia*. One of these goes to each lung; and, after numerous subdivisions, becomes imperceptible: hence, the multitudinous speculations that have been indulged regarding the mode in which the bronchial ramifications terminate. Malpighi<sup>a</sup> believed that they form vesicles, at the inner surface of which the pulmonary artery ramifies. Reisseisen<sup>b</sup> describes the vesicles as of a cylindrical, and somewhat rounded figure; and he states, that they do not communicate with each other. Helvetius,<sup>c</sup> on the other hand, affirmed, that they end in cells, formed by the different constituent elements of the lungs,—the cells having no determinate shape, or regular connexion with each other; whilst Magendie<sup>d</sup> asserts, that the minute bronchial division, which arrives at a lobe, does not enter it, but terminates suddenly as soon as it has reached the parenchyma; and, he remarks, that as the bronchus does not penetrate the spongy tissue of the lung,

Fig. 198.



*Bronchia and Blood-Vessels of the Lungs, as well as the relative position of the Lungs to the Heart, as shown by dissection.*

1. End of left auricle of the heart. 2. Right auricle. 3. Left ventricle with its vessels. 4. Right ventricle with its vessels. 5. Pulmonary artery. 6. Arch of aorta. 7. Superior vena cava. 8. Arteria innominata. 9. Left primitive carotid artery. 10. Left subclavian artery. 11. Trachea. 12. Larynx. 13. Upper lobe of right lung. 14. Upper lobe of left lung. 15. Trunk of right pulmonary artery. 16. Lower lobes of lungs.

The distribution of the bronchia and of the arteries and veins, as well as some of the air-cells of the lungs, is also shown in this dissection.

what rounded figure; and he states, that they do not communicate with each other. Helvetius,<sup>c</sup> on the other hand, affirmed, that they end in cells, formed by the different constituent elements of the lungs,—the cells having no determinate shape, or regular connexion with each other; whilst Magendie<sup>d</sup> asserts, that the minute bronchial division, which arrives at a lobe, does not enter it, but terminates suddenly as soon as it has reached the parenchyma; and, he remarks, that as the bronchus does not penetrate the spongy tissue of the lung,

<sup>a</sup> Epist. de Pulmon. i. p. 133.

<sup>b</sup> Ueber den Bau der Lungen, u. s. w., Berlin, 1822; also, in Latin, Berl. 1822. See likewise, Horner, Special Anatomy and Histology, 6th edit. ii. 161, Philad. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Mémoires de l'Académie, pour 1718, p. 18.

<sup>d</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 309.



it is not probable that the surface of the cells, with which the air comes in contact, is lined by a prolongation of the mucous coat, which forms the inner membrane of the air-passages. Certain it is, that the most attentive examination has failed to detect its presence.

The ramifications of the pulmonary artery are another constituent element of the lung. This vessel arises from the right ventricle of the heart, and, at a short distance from that organ, divides into two branches; one passing to each lung. Each branch accompanies the corresponding bronchus in all its divisions; and, at length, becomes capillary and imperceptible. Its termination, also, has given rise to conjecture. Malpighi conceived it to end at the mucous surface of the bronchi, in an extremely delicate network, which he called *rete mirabile*. This was also the opinion of Reisseisen. According to others, the pulmonary artery, in its ultimate ramifications, is continuous with two kinds of vessels,—the capillary extremities of the pulmonary veins, and the exhalants engaged in the secretion of the pulmonary transpiration. Bichat\* admits, at the extremities of the pulmonary artery, and between that artery and the veins of the same name, vessels of a more delicate character, which he conceives to be the agents of hæmatosis, and which he calls the *capillary system of the lungs*. All that we know is, that the air gets a ready access to the blood in the pulmonary artery; but, with regard to the precise arrangement of the means of such access, we are ignorant. The same may be said of the third constituent of the lungs—the *pulmonary veins*. Their radicles manifestly communicate freely with those of the pulmonary artery; but they equally escape detection. When we observe them, they are found uniting to constitute larger and larger veins, until they ultimately end in four large trunks, which open into the left auricle of the heart.

In addition to these organic constituents, the lung, like other organs, receives arteries, veins, lymphatics, and nerves. It is not nourished by the blood of the pulmonary artery, which is not adapted for that purpose, seeing that it is venous. The *bronchial arteries* are its nutritive vessels. They arise from the aorta, and are distributed to the bronchi.

Around the bronchi, and near where they dip into the tissue of the lung, lymphatic glands exist, the colour of which is almost black, and with which the few lymphatic vessels, that arise from the superficial and deep-seated parts of the lung, communicate. Haller<sup>b</sup> has traced the efferent vessels of these glands into the thoracic duct.

The nerves, distributed to the lungs, proceed chiefly from the eighth pair or pneumogastric. A few filaments of the great sympathetic are also sent to them. The eighth pair—after having given off the superior laryngeal nerves, and some twigs to the heart—interlaces with pumerous branches of the great sympathetic, and forms an extensive nervous network, called the *anterior pulmonary plexus*. After this, the nerve gives off the recurrents, and interlaces a second time with branches of the great sympathetic, forming another network, called the *posterior pulmonary plexus*. It then proceeds to the

\* Anatomie Descriptive, vol. iv. Paris, 1801.

<sup>b</sup> Elem. Physiologie, viii. 2.

stomach, where it terminates. (See Figs. 139 and 186.) From these two plexuses the nerves proceed, that are distributed to the lungs. These accompany the bronchi, and are spread chiefly on the mucous membrane of the air-tubes. The lung likewise receives some nerves directly from the three cervical ganglions of the great sympathetic, and from the first thoracic ganglion. In addition to these, a distinct system of nerves—the *respiratory system*, described in the first volume of this work—is supposed by Sir Charles Bell to be distributed to the multitude of muscles, which are associated in the respiratory function, in a voluntary or involuntary manner. This system includes one of the nerves just referred to—the eighth pair—and the phrenic nerves, which are distributed to the diaphragm. The various nerves composing it are intimately connected, so that, in forced or hurried respiration, in coughing, sneezing, &c., they are always associated in action.\*

Lastly, the lungs are constituted also of cellular tissue, which has been termed *interlobular tissue*; but it does not differ from cellular tissue in other parts of the body.

Such are the constituent elements of the pulmonary tissue; but, with regard to the mode in which they are combined to form the intimate texture of the lung, we are uninstructed. We find, that the lobes are divided into lobules, and these, again, seem to be subdivided almost indefinitely, forming an extremely delicate spongy tissue, the areolæ of which can only be seen by the aid of the microscope. It is generally thought, that the areolæ communicate with each other, and that they are enveloped by the cellular tissue which separates the lobules. Magendie<sup>b</sup> inflated a portion of lung, and dried and cut it in slices, in order that he might examine the deep-seated cells. These appeared to him to be irregular, and to be formed by the final ramifications of the pulmonary artery, and the primary ramifications of the pulmonary veins; the cells of one lobule communicating with each other, but not with those of another lobule. Professor Horner,<sup>c</sup> of the University of Pennsylvania, has attempted to exhibit that this communication between the cells is lateral. After filling the pulmonary arteries and the pulmonary veins with minute injection, the ramifications of the bronchi, with the air-cells, were distended to their natural size by an injection of melted tallow. The latter, being permitted to cool, the lung was cut into slices and dried. The slices were subsequently immersed in spirit of turpentine, and digested, at a moderate heat, for several days. By this process, all the tallow was removed, and the parts, on being dried, appeared to exhibit the air-cells empty, and, seemingly, of their natural size and shape. Preparations, thus made, appear to show the air-cells to be generally about the twelfth of a line in diameter, and of a spherical shape, the cells of each lobule communicating freely, like the cells of fine sponge, by lateral apertures. The lobules, however, only communicate by branches of the bronchi, and not by contiguous cells. This would

\* Muller's Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 348. Lond, 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 309.

<sup>c</sup> American Journal of the Medical Sciences, for Feb. 1832, p. 538, and op. cit.

seem to negative the presumption of some anatomists and physiologists,—as Reisseisen, Blumenbach, Cuvier, &c.,—that each air-cell is insulated, communicating only with the minute bronchus that opens into it; whilst it confirms the views of Haller, Monro (Secundus), Boyer, Sprengel, Magendie, and others;—but it is impossible to decide positively, where all is so minute. Recent observations of Mr. Addison<sup>a</sup> appear to show, that the views of Reisseisen and others, are true as regards the foetal lung, in which the ultimate subdivisions of the bronchial tubes terminate in closed extremities. But when an animal has respired, the terminations are said to experience a great change. The membrane composing them offers but a slight resistance to the pressure of the air, and is pushed forwards, and distended laterally into rounded inflations, forming a series of cells, which are moulded by mutual pressure into various angular forms, and which communicate freely with each other by large oval apertures. The passages, thus formed, do not communicate with each other otherwise than by their connexion with the same bronchial tube, and the blood-vessels lie between the contiguous walls of each two of them, so that the blood in the capillaries is exposed to air on both sides. It would appear, also, from the researches of M. Bourguery,<sup>b</sup> that the developement of the air-cells,—and, consequently, the capacity for forcible inspiration,—continues in man to the age of thirty, at which time the capacity is greatest. Subsequently, it decreases, especially in those who suffer from cough,—the violence of the respiratory effort often causing rupture of the air-cells, and thus gradually producing the emphysematous state of the lungs so common in old people. After thirty, the capacity for forcible inspiration diminishes one-fifth in the first twenty years; one-fifth more in the next ten; and nearly one-half in the next twenty; and this gradual decrease of capacity for forcible inspiration is true of all persons, although one may have a greater general capacity of respiration than another of the same age. Hence the young person possesses a greater capacity of respiration, as it were, in reserve. The aged have little, and are, therefore, unfit for great exertion.<sup>c</sup> Many anatomists, and perhaps with accuracy, by the term air-cell, mean simply the ultimate termination of a bronchus.<sup>d</sup>

The surface afforded by the air-cells is immense. Hales<sup>e</sup> supposed them to be polyhedral, and about one-hundredth part of an inch in diameter. The surface of the bronchi he estimated at 1035 square inches; and that of the air-cells at 20,000. Keill<sup>f</sup> estimated the number of cells to be 1,744,186,015; and the surface 21,906 square inches; and Lieberkühn has valued it at the enormous amount of 1500 square feet.<sup>g</sup> M. Rochoux<sup>h</sup> estimates the number of cells at

<sup>a</sup> Proceedings of the Royal Society, March 17, 1842; and Philos. Transact. for 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Gazette Médicale, 16 Juillet, 1842, and Archives Général de Méd., Mars, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Mr. Paget, British and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1844, p. 256.

<sup>d</sup> See, also, on the Minute Anatomy of the Lungs, Wagner, Elements of Physiol., by Willis, Lond. 1842.

<sup>e</sup> Statical Essays, vi. p. 241.

<sup>f</sup> Tentam. Med. Phys., p. 60.

<sup>g</sup> Blumenbach, in Elliotson's Physiology, p. 197. Lond. 1835.

<sup>h</sup> Gazette Médicale, 4 Janv., 1845.



600,000,000, and that there are about 17,790 grouped around each terminal bronchus. All that we can derive from these mathematical conjectures is, that the extent of surface is surprising, when we consider the small size of the lungs themselves.

Professor Horner<sup>a</sup> has published an account of various experiments, which exhibit the ready communication between the pulmonary air-vessels and the pulmonary veins. By fixing a pipe into the human trachea, and permitting a column of water to pass gently, he found that the air-cells became distended with water; and that the left side of the heart filled, and the aorta discharged water freely from its cut branches. This experiment he repeated on human lungs on different occasions, and with like results. Very little water flowed from the pulmonary artery. In the sheep and the calf, however, when the experiment was practised upon them after they had been pretty thoroughly evacuated of blood, the water passed freely through both the pulmonary veins and the pulmonary arteries. Dr. Horner is disposed to infer, that his experiments exhibit a communication of the pulmonary air-vesicles by a direct route with the pulmonary blood-vessels, especially the veins; but this may well be questioned. It is possible, that such a communication may really have been made by the force of the column of water; and if not so, the passage of the fluid from the air-cells to the blood-vessels might have been effected through the pores, as in ordinary imbibition, which, we have elsewhere seen, is readily accomplished in the lungs, but not more readily perhaps than in the case of serous and other tissues under favourable circumstances. Hemorrhage by transudation occurs, we know, most rapidly at times through the coats of vessels; and a thinner fluid would of course transude more easily. It can scarcely be doubted, from Dr. Horner's experiments, that a certain arrangement exists between the air-vesicles and the pulmonary veins in man, which allows a more ready imbibition and transudation; but what that arrangement is admits of question.

Each lung is covered by the *pleura*,—a serous membrane analogous to the peritoneum,—and, in birds, a prolongation of the latter. This membrane is reflected from the adjacent surface of the lung to the pericardium which covers the heart, and is then spread over the interior paries of the half of the thorax to which it belongs; lining the ribs and intercostal muscles, and covering the convex or upper surface of the diaphragm. There are, consequently two pleuræ, each of which is confined to its own half of the thorax, lining its cavity and covering the lung. Behind the sternum, however, they are contiguous to each other, and form the partition, called *mediastinum*, which extends between the sternum and spine. Fig. 199, exhibits the boundaries of the two cavities of the pleura. The middle space between is the mediastinum. Within this septum, the heart, enveloped by the pericardium, is situate, and separates the pleuræ considerably from each other. Anatomists generally subdivide the mediastinum into two regions; one passing from the front of the peri-

<sup>a</sup> Amer. Jour. of the Medical Sciences, April, 1843, p. 332; and Special Anatomy and Histology, 6th edit., ii. 163.

Fig. 199.



Outline of a Transverse Section of the Chest, showing the relative Position of the Pleura to the Thorax and its Contents.

1. Skin on the front of the chest drawn up by a hook. 2. Skin on the sides of the chest. 3. That on the back. 4. Subcutaneous fat and muscles on the outside of the thorax. 5. Section of the muscles in the vertebral gutter. 6. Section of fifth dorsal vertebra. 7. Spinal canal. 8. Spinous process. 9, 9, 10, 10. Sections of ribs and intercostal muscles. 11. Their cartilages. 12. Sternum. 13. Division of the pulmonary artery. 14. Exterior surface of lungs. 15. Posterior face of lungs. 16. Anterior face of lungs. 17. Inner face of lungs. 18. Anterior face of heart covered by pericardium. 19. Pulmonary artery. 20, 21. Its division into right and left branches. 22. Portion of right auricle. 23. Descending cava cut off at right auricle. 24. Section of left bronchus. 25. Section of right bronchus. 26. Section of œsophagus. 27. Section of thoracic aorta. The space between figures 12 and 18 and the two 16's is the anterior mediastinum, and the space which contains 26 and 27 is the posterior mediastinum. These spaces are formed by the reflections of the pleura.

bricated by a fluid, exhaled from its surface. The other surface is attached to the lung in such a manner, that air cannot get between it and the parietes of the thorax.

Dr. Stokes,\* has described a proper fibrous tunic of the lungs. In a healthy state, this capsule, although possessing great strength, is transparent, a circumstance in which it differs from the fibrous capsule of the pericardium, and which, Dr. Stokes thinks, has probably led to its being overlooked. It invests the whole of both lungs; covers a portion of the great vessels; and the pericardium seems to be but its continuation,—endowed, in that particular situation, with a greater degree of strength, for purposes that are obvious. It covers the diaphragm where it is more opaque: in connexion with the pleura, it lines the ribs; and, turning, forms the mediastina, which are thus shown to consist of four layers,—two serous and two fibrous. It

cardium to the sternum, called the *anterior mediastinum*; the other, from the posterior surface of the pericardium to the dorsal vertebræ,—the *posterior mediastinum*; and, by some, the part which is within the circuit of the first ribs, is termed *superior mediastinum*. The second of these contains the most important organs,—the lower end of the trachea, œsophagus, aorta, vena azygos, thoracic duct, and pneumogastric nerves. The portion of the pleura, covering each lung, is called *pleura pulmonalis*; that which lines the thorax, *pleura costalis*. It is obvious that, as in the case of the abdomen, the viscera are not in the cavity of the pleura, but external to it; and that there is no communication between the serous sac of one side and that of the other.

The use of the pleura is to attach the lungs, by their roots, to their respective cavities, and to facilitate their movements. To aid this, the membrane is always lu-

\* On Diseases of the Chest, Part i. p. 460, Dublin, 1837; or Dunglison's American Medical Library edition, p. 301, Philad. 1837.

seems, that Dr. Hart, of Dublin, has, for years, demonstrated this tunic to his class.

It was, at one time, the prevalent belief, that air always exists in the cavity of the chest. Galen supported the opinion by the fact, that, having applied a bladder, filled with air, to a wound, which had penetrated the chest, the air was drawn out of the bladder at the time of inspiration. This was also maintained by Hamberger, Hales,<sup>a</sup> and numerous others. The case, alluded to by Galen, is insufficient to establish the position, inasmuch as we have no evidence, that the wound did not also implicate the pulmonary tissue. Since the time of Haller, who opposed the prevalent doctrine by observation and reasoning, the fact of the absence of air in the cavity of the pleura is generally considered to be entirely established. It is obvious, that its presence there would materially interfere with the dilatation of the lungs, and thus be productive of fatal consequences; besides, anatomy instructs us, that the lungs lie in pretty close contact with the pleura costalis. When the intercostal muscles are dissected off, and the pleura costalis is exposed, the surface of the lungs is seen in contact with that transparent membrane; and, when the pleura is punctured, the air rushes in, and the lungs retire, in proportion as the air is admitted. This occurs in cases of injuries inflicted upon the chest of the living animal. Moreover, if a dead or living body be placed under water, and the pleura be punctured, so as not to implicate the lungs, it has been found by the experiments of Brunn, Sprögel, Caldani, Sir John Floyer, Haller,<sup>b</sup> and others, that not a bubble of air escapes,—which would necessarily be the case, if air were contained in the cavity of the pleura.<sup>c</sup>

## 2. ATMOSPHERIC AIR.

The globe is surrounded every where, to the height of fifteen or sixteen leagues; by a rare and transparent fluid called *air*; the total mass of which constitutes the *atmosphere*.

Atmospheric air, although invisible, can be proved to possess the ordinary properties of matter; and, amongst these, weight. It also partakes of the character of a fluid, adapting itself to the form of the vessel in which it is contained, and pressing equally in all directions.

As air is possessed of weight, it results, that every body on the earth's surface must be subjected to its pressure; and as it is elastic or capable of yielding to pressure, the part of the atmosphere near the earth's surface must be denser than that above it. As a body, therefore, ascends, the pressure will be diminished; and this accounts for the different feelings experienced by those who ascend lofty mountains, or voyage in balloons, into the higher strata of the atmosphere.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Edwards<sup>e</sup> ascribes part, at least, of the effect produced upon the breathing, at great elevations, to the increased evaporation which

<sup>a</sup> Statical Essays, ii. 81.

<sup>b</sup> Element, Physiol. viii. 2.

<sup>c</sup> Bostock's Physiology, 3d edit. p. 305, Lond. 1836; and Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, edit. cit. iii. 144.

<sup>d</sup> See the author's Human Health, p. 19, Philad. 1844; and art. Atmosphere, by the author, in Amer. Cyclop. of Pract. Med. iii. 529, Philad. 1836.

<sup>e</sup> De l'Influence des Agens Physiques, &c. p. 493, Paris, 1824.

takes place from the skin and lungs; and in many aerial voyages great inconvenience has certainly been sustained from this cause.

The pressure of the atmosphere at the level of the sea is the result of the whole weight of the atmosphere, and is capable of sustaining a column of water thirty-four feet high, or one of mercury of the height of thirty inches, as in the common *barometer*. This is equal to about fifteen pounds avoirdupois on every square inch of surface; so that the body of a man of ordinary stature, the surface of which Haller estimates to be fifteen square feet, sustains a pressure of 32,400 pounds. Yet, as the elasticity of the air within the body exactly balances or counteracts the pressure from without, he is not sensible of it.

The experiments of Davy, Dalton, Gay Lussac, Humboldt, Despretz, and others, have shown, that pure atmospheric air is composed essentially of two gases, *oxygen* and *azote* or nitrogen, which exist in it in the proportion of 21 of the former to 79 of the latter: Dr. T. Thomson, whose analysis is one of the most recent and satisfactory, says 20 of oxygen to 80 of azote; and these proportions have been found to prevail in the air whencesoever taken;—whether from the summit of Mont Blanc, the top of Chimborazo, the sandy plains of Egypt, or from an altitude of 23,000 feet in the air.\* Chemical analysis has not been able to detect the presence of any emanation from the soil of the most insalubrious regions, or from the bodies of those labouring under the most contagious diseases,—malignant and *material* as such emanations unquestionably must be. This uniformity in the proportion of the oxygen to the nitrogen in the atmosphere has led to the conclusion, that as there are many processes, which consume the oxygen, there must be some natural agency, by which a quantity of oxygen is produced equal to that consumed. The only source, however, by which oxygen is known to be supplied, is the process of vegetation. A healthy plant absorbs carbonic acid during the day; appropriates the carbon to its own necessities, and gives off the oxygen with which it was combined. During the night an opposite effect is produced. The oxygen is then taken from the air, and carbonic acid given off; but the experiments of Davy and Priestley show, that plants, during the twenty-four hours, yield more oxygen than they consume. It is impossible to look to this as the great cause of equilibrium between the oxygen and the azote. Its influence can extend to a small distance only; and yet the uniformity has been found to prevail, as we have seen, in the most elevated regions, and in countries whose arid sands never admit of vegetation.

In addition to the oxygen and azote,—the principal constituents of atmospheric air,—another gas exists in very small proportion, but is always present. This is *carbonic acid*. It was found by De Saussure on Mont Blanc, and by Humboldt in air brought down by Garnerin, the aeronaut, from the height of several thousand feet. The proportion is estimated by Dalton not to exceed the  $\frac{1}{10000}$ th or  $\frac{1}{12000}$ th of its bulk. In one of the wards of La Pitié, in Paris, which had been kept shut

\* Art. Atmosphere, (Physical and Chemical History,) by Dr. R. M. Patterson, in Amer. Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine and Surgery, vol. ii., p. 596, Philad. 1836.

during the night, M. Felix Leblanc<sup>a</sup> found a larger portion of carbonic acid, nearly  $\frac{1}{1000}$ ths; and in one of the dormitories of Salpêtrière, the air yielded  $\frac{1}{1000}$ ths; the largest proportion found by him in the air of hospitals. In the lecture room of the Sorbonne, which is capable of containing 1000 cubic inches of air, after a lecture an hour and a half long, and at which 900 persons were present, the oxygen was found to have lost 1 in every hundred, although two doors were open; whilst the carbonic acid was increased in rather a greater ratio. In a ward in an institution for children, although the door was half open, and there was an open space in the roof, the air was found to contain  $\frac{1}{1000}$ ths of carbonic acid, and there was a proportional diminution of oxygen. Recently, M. Boussingault<sup>b</sup> has made 142 analyses of large quantities of the air of Paris, whence he has drawn the generally admitted conclusion, that the quantity of carbonic acid contained in the air of large towns is not above the average. The average quantity found by him was 3.97 volumes in 10,000. Although largely produced where combustion is extensively going on, and where numbers of persons are congregated together, as in large cities, it becomes so speedily diffused in the atmosphere as not to excite any marked difference between the air there, and in rural districts.

These, then, may be looked upon as the constituents of atmospheric air. There are certain substances, however, which are adventitiously present in variable proportions; and which, with the constitution of the atmosphere as to density and temperature, are the causes of general or local salubrity, or the contrary. Water is one of these. The quantity, according to De Saussure, in a cubic foot of air, charged with moisture, at 65° Fahr., is 11 grains. Its amount in the atmosphere is very variable, owing to the continual change of temperature to which the air is subject; and even when the temperature is the same, the quantity of vapour is found to vary, as the air is very rarely in a state of saturation. The varying condition as to moisture is indicated by the *hygrometer*. From a comparison of numerous observations, Gay Lussac affirms, that the mean hygrometric state of the atmosphere is such, that the air holds just one-half the moisture necessary for its saturation. In his celebrated aerial voyage, he found the air to contain but one-eighth of the moisture necessary for saturation. This is the greatest degree of dryness ever noticed.

It has been presumed, that the hygrometric condition of the atmospheric air has more agency in the production of disease than either the barometric or thermometric. It is not easy to say which exerts the greatest influence: probably all are concerned, and when we have a union of particular barometric, thermometric, hygrometric, electric, and other conditions, we have certain epidemics existing, which do not prevail under any other combination. When the air is dry, we feel a degree of elasticity and buoyancy; whilst, if it be saturated with moisture,—especially during the heat of summer,—languor and lassitude, and indisposition to mental or corporeal exertion are excited.

<sup>a</sup> Gazette Méd. de Paris, 11 Juin, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Annales de Chimie et de Physique, Mars, 1844.

In addition to aqueous vapour, numerous emanations from animal and vegetable substances must be generally present, especially in the lower strata of the atmosphere; by which the salubrity of the air may be more or less affected. All living bodies, when crowded together, deteriorate the air so much as to render it unfit for the maintenance of the healthy function. If animals be kept crowded together in ill-ventilated apartments, they speedily sicken. The horse becomes attacked with *glanders*; fowls with *pep*, and sheep with a disease peculiar to them if they be too closely folded. This is probably a principal cause of the insalubrity of cities compared with the country. In them, the air must necessarily be deteriorated by the impracticability of due ventilation, and this, with the want of due exercise, is a fruitful cause of cachexia—and of tuberculous cachexia; hence, also, it is, that in work-houses and manufactories, diseases dependent on this condition of constitution are prevalent. One of the greatest evidences we possess of the positive insalubrity of towns is the case of the young. In London, the proportion of those that die annually under five years of age to the whole number of deaths is as much as thirty-eight per cent., and under two years, twenty-eight per cent.; in Paris, under two years of age twenty-five per cent.; and in Philadelphia and Baltimore, rather less than a third. These estimates may be considered approximations; the proportions varying somewhat, according to the precise year in which they have been taken. Manifest, however, as is the existence of some deleterious principle, in these cases, it has always escaped the researches of the chemist.

Lastly. Air is indispensable to organic existence. No being,—animal or vegetable,—can continue to live without a due supply of it; nor can any other gas be substituted for it. This is proved by the fact, that all organized bodies cease to exist, if placed *in vacuo*. They require, likewise, renovation of the air, otherwise they die; and if the residual air be examined, it is found to be diminished in quantity, and to have received a gas, which is totally unfit for life,—*carbonic acid*. The experiments of Hales prove this as regards vegetables; whilst Spallanzani and Vauquelin have confirmed it in the case of the lower animals. The necessity for the presence of air, and its due renewal,—as regards man and the upper classes of animals,—is sufficiently obvious. Not less necessary is a due supply of air to aquatic animals. They can be readily drowned, when the air in the water is consumed, if prevented from coming to the surface. If the fluid be put under the receiver of an air-pump, and the air be withdrawn, or if the vessel be placed so that the air cannot be renewed, the same changes are found to have been produced in the air; and hence the necessity for making holes through the ice, where small fish-ponds are frozen over, if we are desirous of preserving the fish alive. The necessity for the renewal of air is not, however, alike imperative in all animals. Whilst the mammalia, birds, fishes, &c., speedily expire, when placed under the receiver of an air-pump, if the receiver be exhausted; the frog is but slightly incommoded. It swells up almost to bursting, but retains its position, and when the air is admitted, seems to have sustained no injury. The exception, afforded

by the amphibious animal to the ordinary effects of destructive agents, we have already had occasion to refer to more than once; and it is strikingly exemplified in the fact, now indisputable, that the toad has been found alive in the substance of trees and rocks, where no access of air appeared practicable.

The influence of air on mankind is most interesting and important in its hygienic relations, and has accordingly been a topic of study since the days of Hippocrates. In other works, it has been investigated, at considerable length, by the author.\*

### 3. PHYSIOLOGY OF RESPIRATION.

a. *Mechanical Phenomena of Respiration.*—Within certain limits, the function of respiration is under the influence of volition. The muscles, belonging to it, have consequently been termed *mixed*, as we can at pleasure increase or diminish their action, but cannot arrest it altogether, or for any great length of time. If, by a forced inspiration, we take air into the chest in large quantity, we find it impossible to keep the chest in this condition beyond a certain period. Expiration irresistibly succeeds, and the chest resumes its pristine situation. The same occurs if we expel the air as much as possible from the lungs. The expiratory effort cannot be prolonged indefinitely, and the chest expands in spite of the effort of the will. The most expert divers do not appear capable of suspending the respiratory movements longer than 95 or 100 seconds. Dr. Lefèvre<sup>b</sup> found the average period of the Turkish divers to be 76 seconds for each man. These facts have given rise to two curious and deeply interesting topics of inquiry;—the cause of the first inspiration in the newborn infant? and of the regular alternation of inspiration and expiration during the remainder of existence? The first of these questions will fall under consideration when we investigate the physiology of infancy; the latter will claim some attention at present. Haller<sup>c</sup> attempted to account for the phenomenon by the passage of the blood through the lungs being impeded during expiration,—a reflux of blood into the veins, and a degree of pressure upon the brain being thus induced: hence, a painful sensation of suffocation arises, in consequence of which the muscles of inspiration are called into action by the will, for the purpose of enlarging the chest, and, in this way, removing the impediment. The same uneasy feelings, however, ensue from inspiration, if too long protracted: the muscles cease to act, and, by their relaxation, the opposite state of the chest is induced. Whytt<sup>d</sup> conceived, that the passage of the blood through the pulmonary vessels is impeded by expiration, and that a sense of anxiety is thus produced. The unpleasant sensation acts as a stimulus upon the nerves of the lungs and the parts connected with them, which arouses the energy of the sentient principle; and this, by acting in a reflex manner, causes contraction of the diaphragm, enlarges the

\* Human Health, Philad. 1844; and American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery, art. Atmosphere, p. 527. Philad. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Loudon's Magazine of Nat. Hist. p. 617, Dec. 1836; and Dunglison's Amer. Med. Intelligencer, p. 30, April 15, 1837.

<sup>c</sup> Elementa Physiologiæ, viii. 4, 17.

<sup>d</sup> An Essay on the Vital and other Involuntary Motions of Animals, sect. viii. Edinb. 1751.

chest, and removes the painful feeling. The muscles then cease to act, in consequence of the stimulus no longer existing.\* These, and all other methods of accounting for the phenomena, are, however, too pathological. From the first moment of respiration the process appears to be accomplished without the slightest difficulty, and to be as much a part of the instinctive extra-uterine actions of the frame, as circulation, digestion, or absorption. It is obviously an internal sensation, after respiration has been once established; and, like all internal sensations, is inexplicable in our existing state of knowledge. The part which develops the impression is probably the lung, through its ganglionic nerves; the pneumogastric nerves convey the impression to the brain or spinal marrow, which calls into action the muscles of inspiration. We say, that the action of impression arises in the lungs, and this, from some internal cause, connected with the office to be filled in the economy: but in so saying we sufficiently exhibit our total want of acquaintance with its nature.

The movements of inspiration and expiration, which, together, constitute the function of respiration, are entirely accomplished by the dilatation and contraction of the thorax. The air enters the chest when the latter is expanded; and it is driven out when the chest is restored to its ordinary dimensions;—the thorax thus seeming to act like an ordinary pair of bellows with the valve stopped: when the sides are separated, the air enters at the nozzle, and it is forced out when they are brought together.

#### 1. INSPIRATION.

The augmentation of the capacity of the thorax, which constitutes inspiration, may be effected to a greater or less extent, according to the number of muscles which are thrown into action. The chest may, for example, be dilated by the diaphragm alone. This muscle, as we have seen, in its ordinary relaxed condition is convex towards the chest. When, however, it contracts, it becomes more horizontal; in this manner augmenting the cavity of the chest in a vertical direction. The sides or lateral portions of the diaphragm, which are fleshy and correspond to the lungs, descend more, in this movement, than the central, tendinous portion, which is moreover kept immovable by its attachment to the sternum, and its union with the pericardium. In the gentlest of all breathing, the diaphragm appears to be the sole agent of inspiration; and in cases of inflammation of the pleura costalis, or of fractured rib, our endeavours are directed to the prevention of any elevation of the ribs by which the diseased part can be put upon the stretch. Generally, however, as the diaphragm descends, the viscera of the abdomen are compressed; the abdominal muscles relaxed; the abdomen is rendered more prominent, and the ribs and the breast bone are raised so that the latter is protruded. When the diaphragm acts, and, in addition, the ribs and sternum are raised, the cavity of the chest is still farther augmented.

The mechanism, by which the ribs are raised, has been productive

\* See, also, Dr. M. Hall's *Lectures on the Nervous System*, p. 55, Lond. 1836; or Amer. edit. p. 36. Philad. 1836.



of more controversy than the subject merits. Haller<sup>a</sup> asserted, that the first rib is immovable, or at least admits of but trifling motion when compared with the others; and he denies that the thorax makes any movement, as a whole, of either elevation or depression; affirming that the ribs are raised successively towards the top of the cavity; and this to a greater extent as they are more distant from the first. Magendie,<sup>b</sup> on the other hand, denies that they are elevated in this manner; and endeavours to show that they are all raised at the same time; that the first rib, instead of being the least movable, is the most so; and that the disadvantage, which the lower ribs possess in the movement, by their admitting of less motion in their posterior articulations, is compensated by the greater length of these ribs. This compensation he considers to have its advantages; for as the true ribs, with their cartilages and the sternum, usually move together, and the motion of one of these parts almost always induces that of the rest; it would follow, that if the lower ribs were more movable, they could not execute a more extensive movement than they do; whilst the solidity of the thorax would be diminished.

By the elevation, then, of the ribs, and the depression of the diaphragm, the chest is augmented, and a deeper inspiration effected than when the diaphragm acts singly. In this elevation of the ribs, we see the advantage of their obliquity as regards the spine. Had they been horizontal, or inclined obliquely upwards, any elevation would necessarily have contracted the thoracic cavity, and favoured expiration instead of inspiration.

The muscles chiefly concerned in inspiration are the intercostals, and those muscles which arise, either directly or indirectly, from the spine, head, or upper extremities, and which can, in any manner, elevate the thorax. Amongst these are the *scaleni antici* and *postici*, the *levatores costarum*, the muscles of the neck, which are attached to the sternum, &c.<sup>c</sup>

As no air exists in the cavity of the pleura, it necessarily happens, that, when the capacity of the chest is augmented, the residuary air, contained in the air-cells of the lungs after expiration, is rarefied; and, in consequence, the denser air without enters the larynx by the mouth and nose, until the air within the lungs has attained the density, which the residuary air had, prior to inspiration,—not that of the external air, as has been affirmed.<sup>d</sup> At the time of inspiration, the glottis opens by the relaxation of the *arytenoidei* muscles, as Legallois<sup>e</sup> proved by experiments performed at the *Ecole de Médecine* of Paris. On exposing the glottis of a living animal, the aperture is

<sup>a</sup> *Elementa Physiologie*, viii.

<sup>b</sup> *Précis*, &c. 2de édit. ii. 316. See, also, Petrequin, *Traité d'Anatomie Médico-chirurgicale*, &c., Paris and Lyons, 1844: noticed in *British and Foreign Medical Review*, July 1845, p. 135.

<sup>c</sup> For an elaborate inquiry into the respiratory movements, see Messrs. Beau and Maisiat, in *Archiv. général de Médecine*, Dec. 1843; Mai, Juillet, and Novemb. 1843; the results are given by Mr. Paget, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Jan. 1844, p. 255, and Jan. 1845, p. 263.

<sup>d</sup> *Animal Physiology*, Library of Useful Knowledge, p. 100, Lond. 1839.

<sup>e</sup> *Œuvres*, p. 177, Paris, 1824.

found to dilate very distinctly at each inspiration, and to contract at each expiration. If, according to Magendie, the eighth pair of nerves be divided low down in the neck, and the dilator muscles of the glottis, which receive their nerves from the recurrensts—branches of the eighth pair—be thus paralysed, the aperture is no longer enlarged during inspiration, whilst the constrictors—the arytenoidei muscles—which receive their nerves from the superior laryngeal,—given off above the point of section—preserve their action, and close the glottis more or less completely.

When the air is inspired through the mouth, the velum is raised, so as to allow the air to pass freely to the glottis; and, in forced inspiration, it is so horizontal as to completely expose the pharynx to view. The physician takes advantage of this in examining morbid affections of those parts, and can often succeed much better in this way than by pressing down the tongue. On the other hand, when inspiration is effected entirely through the nose, the velum palati is depressed until it becomes vertical, and no obstacles exist to the free entrance of the air into the larynx. In such case, where difficulty of breathing exists, the small muscles of the *alæ nasi* are frequently thrown into violent action, alternately dilating and contracting the apertures of the nostrils; and hence this is a common symptom in pulmonary affections.

Mayow<sup>a</sup> conceived, that the air enters the lungs in inspiration as it would a bladder put into a pair of bellows, and communicating with the external air by the pipe of the instrument. The lungs, however, are not probably so passive as this view would indicate. In cases of hernia of the lungs, the extruded portion has been observed to dilate and contract in inspiration and expiration. Reisseisen believed this to be owing to muscular fibres, which Meckel and himself conceived to perform the whole circuit of the bronchial ramifications. These are not, however, generally admitted by anatomists, and the phenomenon is usually ascribed to the bronchi having in their composition the highly elastic tissue, which is an important constituent of the arteries. Laennec<sup>b</sup> affirms, that he has endeavoured, without success, to verify the observations of Reisseisen; but that the manifest existence of circular fibres in branches of a moderate size, and the phenomena, presented by many kinds of asthma, induce him to consider the temporary constriction and occlusion of the minute bronchial ramifications as a thing well established.<sup>c</sup> In the trachea, an obvious muscular structure exists in the posterior third, where the cartilages are wanting. There it consists of a thin muscular plane, the fibres of which pass transversely between the interrupted extremities of the cartilaginous rings of the trachea and bronchi, to which a layer of

<sup>a</sup> *Tractatus Quinque*, p. 271. Oxon. 1674.

<sup>b</sup> *On the Diseases of the Chest, &c.*, 4th edit., Lond. 1834: reprinted in this country, Philad. 1835. See, also, Dr. Watson, *Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic*, Amer. edit., by Condie, p. 731, Philad. 1845; and the author's *Practice of Medicine*, 2d edit., i. 324, Philad. 1844.

<sup>c</sup> See, on this subject, Trousseau and Belloc on *Laryngeal Phthisis*, translated by Dr. Warder, of Cincinnati, for Duglison's *Amer. Med. Library*, p. 81, Philad. 1839; and Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 527, Lond. 1842; and Dr. Forbes, *art. Asthma*, in *Cyclop. of Practical Medicine*, Amer. edit. by the author, i. 209. Philad. 1845.

longitudinal fibres may at times be seen superadded.\* The use of the transverse muscular tissue, as suggested by Dr. Physick,<sup>b</sup> and, since him, by Cruveilhier and Sir Charles Bell,<sup>c</sup> is to diminish the calibre of the air-tubes in expectoration; so that the air having to pass through the contracted portion with greater velocity, its momentum may remove the secretions that are adherent to the mucous membrane. The explanation is ingenious and probably just.

Magendie<sup>d</sup> asserts, that the lung has a constant tendency to return upon itself, and to occupy a smaller space than that which it fills; and that it consequently exerts a degree of traction on every part of the parietes of the thorax. This traction has but little effect upon the ribs, which cannot yield; but upon the diaphragm it is considerable. It is, indeed, in his opinion, the cause, why that muscle is always tense, and drawn so as to be vaulted upwards; and when the muscle is depressed during contraction, it is compelled to draw down the lungs towards the base of the chest, so that they are stretched, and, by virtue of their elasticity, have a more powerful tendency to return upon themselves, and to draw the diaphragm upwards. If a puncture be made into the chest in one of the intercostal spaces, the air will enter the chest through the aperture, and the lung will shrink. By this experiment, the atmospheric pressure is equalized on both surfaces of the lung, and the organ assumes a bulk determined by its elasticity and weight. Owing to this resiliency of the lungs, and to their consequent tendency to recede from the pleura costalis,<sup>e</sup> there is less pressure upon all the parts against which the lungs are applied; and, accordingly, the heart is not exposed to the same degree of pressure as the parts external to the chest; and the degree of pressure is still farther reduced, when the chest is fully dilated, the lungs farther expanded, and their elastic resiliency increased.

Many physiologists have pointed out three degrees of inspiration, but it is manifest that there may be innumerable shades between them:—1. *Ordinary gentle inspiration*, which is owing simply to the action of the diaphragm; or, in addition, to a slight elevation of the chest. 2. *Deep inspiration*, where, with the depression or contraction of the diaphragm, there is evident elevation of the thorax; and lastly, *forced inspiration*, when the air is strongly drawn in by the rapid dilatation produced by the action of all the respiratory muscles that elevate the chest directly or indirectly.

Trials have been instituted for determining the quantity of air taken into the lungs at an inspiration; and considerable diversity, as might be expected, exists in the evaluations of different experimenters.<sup>f</sup> We have just remarked, that, in the same individual, the inspiration may be gentle, deep, or forced; and, in each case, the quantity of air in-

\* Dr. Goddard, in Wilson's *Anatomist's Vade-Mecum*, Amer. edit., p. 404, note. Philad. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Horner's *Lessons in Practical Anat.*, p. 179, Philad. 1836; and *Special Anat. and Histology*, 4th edit. Philad. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Philos. Transact. for 1832, p. 301.

<sup>d</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 325.

<sup>e</sup> Dr. J. Carson, on the Elasticity of the Lungs, in Philos. Transactions for 1820; and Inquiry into the Causes of Respiration, &c., 2d edit. Lond. 1833.

<sup>f</sup> Dr. Marshall Hall has devised a *pneumatometer* for this purpose. See art. Irritability, in Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., July, 1840.

spired will necessarily differ. There is, likewise, considerable diversity in individuals as regards the size of the chest; so that an approximation can alone be attained. The following table sufficiently exhibits the discordance of authors on this point. Many, however, of the estimates, which seem so extremely discrepant, may probably be referred to imperfection in the mode of conducting the experiment, as well as to the causes above mentioned :

	Cubic inches at each Inspiration.		Cubic inches at each Inspiration.
Reil, . . . . .	42 to 100	Richerand, . . . . .	30 to 40
Menzies, . . . . .		Dalton, . . . . .	30
Sauvages, . . . . .		Jeffreys, . . . . .	26
Hales, . . . . .		Herboldt, . . . . .	20 to 29
Haller, . . . . .		Jurine and Coathupe, . . . . .	20
Ellis, . . . . .	40	Allen and Pepys, . . . . .	16½
Sprengel, . . . . .		J. Borelli, . . . . .	15 to 40
Sömmering, . . . . .		Goodwin, . . . . .	14
Thomson, . . . . .		Sir H. Davy, . . . . .	13 to 17
Bostock, . . . . .		Abernethy and Mojon, . . . . .	12
Jurin, . . . . .	35 to 38	Keutsch, . . . . .	6 to 12*
Fontana, . . . . .	35		

In passing through the mouth, nasal fossæ, pharynx, larynx, trachea, and bronchi, the inspired air acquires pretty nearly the temperature of the body; and, if the air be cool, the same quantity by weight occupies a much larger space in the lungs, owing to its rarefaction in those organs. In its passage, too, it becomes mixed with the halitus, which is constantly exhaled from the mucous membrane of the air-passages: in this condition, it enters the air-cells, and—as will be seen presently—becomes mixed, by diffusion, with the residuary air in the lungs after expiration.

It is obvious, that if we knew the exact capacity of the lungs in an individual when in health, we might be able to determine the extent of solidification in pulmonary affections by the diminution in their capacity. Owing, however, to our want of this requisite preliminary knowledge, the test is not of much avail.

## 2. EXPIRATION.

An interval, scarcely appreciable, elapses after the accomplishment of inspiration, before the reverse movement of expiration succeeds; and the air is expelled from the chest. The great cause of this expulsion is the restoration of the chest to its former dimensions; and the elasticity of the yellow tissue composing the bronchial ramifications, which have been put upon the stretch by the air rushing into them during inspiration. The restoration of the chest to its dimensions may be effected simply by the cessation of the contraction of the muscles, that have raised it, and the elasticity of the cartilages, which connect the bony portions of the ribs with the sternum or breast-bone.

\* Bostock's *Essay on Respiration*, Liverpool, 1804; and *Elementary System of Physiology*, 3d edit., p. 314, Lond., 1836; and C. T. Coathupe, in *Philos. Magaz.*, June, 1839.

In active expiration, however, the ribs are depressed by the action of appropriate muscles, and the chest is thus still farther contracted. The chief expiratory muscles are the triangularis sterni, the broad muscles of the abdomen, rectus abdominis, sacro-lumbalis, longissimus dorsi, serratus posticus inferior, &c. Haller conceived that the ribs, in expiration, are successively depressed towards the last rib; which is first fixed by the abdominal muscles and quadratus lumborum. The intercostal muscles then act and draw the ribs successively downwards. Magendie<sup>b</sup> contests the explanation of Haller; and the truth would seem to be, that the muscles, just mentioned, participate with the intercostals in every expiratory movement. By this action, the capacity of the chest is diminished; the lungs are correspondingly pressed upon, and the air issues by the glottis. It has been already remarked, that, during expiration, the arytenoidei muscles contract, and the glottis appears to close. Still, space sufficient is left to permit the exit of the air.

It has been asked—is the air expired precisely that which has been taken in by the previous inspiration? It is impossible to empty the lungs wholly by the most forced expiration. A portion still remains; and hence it has been assumed, that the use of inspiration is to constantly renew the air remaining in the air-cells. On this subject we are not well informed; but it is probable that the lighter and more rarefied air mixes, by diffusion, with the newly-arrived and denser medium. Many experiments have been made to determine the change of bulk which air experiences by being respired. According to Sir Humphry Davy,<sup>c</sup> it is diminished, by a single inspiration, from  $\frac{7}{10}$ th to  $\frac{1}{10}$ th part of its bulk. Cuvier makes it about  $\frac{1}{10}$ th; Allen and Pepys a little more than a half per cent. Berthollet from 0.69 to 3.70 per cent.; and Bostock  $\frac{1}{10}$ th,—as the average diminution. Assuming this last estimate to be correct, and forty cubic inches to be the quantity of air drawn into the lungs at each inspiration, it will follow, that half a cubic inch disappears each time we respire. This, in a day, would amount to 14,400 cubic inches, or to rather more than eight cubic feet. The experiments of MM. Dulong and Despretz make the diminution considerable. The latter gentleman placed six small rabbits in forty-nine quarts of air for two hours, at the expiration of which time the air had diminished one quart. A portion of the inspired air must consequently have been absorbed.

In the ordinary respiration of men from seventeen to thirty-three years old, Valentin<sup>d</sup> has calculated, from the watery vapour contained in the saturated expired air, that the average quantity of air expired in a minute is 400 cubic inches,—the extremes under varying circumstances being 234 and 686 cubic inches, and the average quantity of one ordinary expiration 31.1 cubic inches; the extremes in very tranquil and somewhat hurried respiration being 11.4 and 74 cubic inches. Mr. Paget, however, thinks, that Mr. Coathupe's esti-

<sup>a</sup> Element. Physiol. viii. 4.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 324.

<sup>c</sup> Researches, Chemical and Philosophical, p. 431, Lond., 1800.

<sup>d</sup> Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen, i. 542, cited by Mr. Paget in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1845, p. 364.

mate of 20 to 25 cubic inches is probably better, inasmuch as it was drawn from the results of respiration continued during a longer period and with less restraint than those of Valentin.

Recently, some interesting experiments have been made by Mr. Hutchinson,<sup>a</sup> with an instrument somewhat unhappily termed by him a *spirometer*, by which he measures the quantity of air expired in a full and forcible expiration. From these it would appear, that there is an intimate relation between this capacity and the height of the individual. In 1088 healthy men, from five to more than six feet in height, he found the capacities for respiration to be as follows:—in those of five feet, 135 cubic inches; of five feet one inch, 177 cubic inches; of five feet two inches, 173 cubic inches; of five feet three inches, 184; of five feet four inches, 193; of five feet five inches, 208; of five feet six inches, 204; of five feet seven inches, 224; of five feet eight inches, 220; of five feet nine inches, 229; of five feet ten inches, 246; of five feet eleven inches, 254; of six feet, 255; and of upwards of six feet 260 cubic inches. So it may be stated, generally, that for every additional inch of height from five to six feet, eight additional cubic inches of air at 60° are given out by a forced expiration. The results of the examinations are so nearly uniform, that it has been inferred, disease may be suspected in any man who cannot blow out nearly so many cubic inches as the average of those of the same height, even when by external measurement his chest appears to be of full size. The size of the chest is, indeed, stated to afford no good indication of the capacity of expiration. The only exceptions among healthy men to the general rule of the direct proportion between the height of the body and the capacity of expiration, are in the cases of fat men, whose capacity is always low. It was indeed the observation—also made by M. Bourgeri,<sup>b</sup> that thin men have the greatest capacity of respiration, which first led Mr. Hutchinson to the experiments, that furnished the law given above. Mr. Hutchinson found, that the full expiratory force of a healthy man is commonly about one-third greater than his inspiratory force. As a general rule, among 1200 persons of various classes, the inspiratory force increases pretty regularly from those of five feet high to those of five feet nine inches, and then decreases. If, therefore, the power of the respiratory muscles were a fair measure of the power of the whole muscular system, the men of the latter height might be regarded as the strongest. But in four classes of picked men for actual service, Mr. Hutchinson found the respiratory force greatest in those of five feet seven inches.

Attempts have been made to estimate the quantity of air remaining in the lungs after respiration; but the sources of discrepancy are here as numerous as in the cases of inspiration or expiration. Goodwyn<sup>c</sup> estimated it at 109 cubic inches; Menzies<sup>d</sup> at 179; Jurin<sup>e</sup> at 220; Fontana<sup>f</sup> at 40; and Cuvier, after a forced inspiration, at from 100

<sup>a</sup> London Lancet, July 27 and Aug. 3, 1844.

<sup>b</sup> Archiv. Générales de Médecine, Mars, 1843; and Mr. Paget, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1844, p. 256, and Jan. 1845, p. 264.

<sup>c</sup> Op. citat., p. 36.

<sup>e</sup> Philosoph. Trans., vol. xxx., p. 758.

<sup>d</sup> Op. citat., p. 31.

<sup>f</sup> Philos. Trans. for 1799, p. 355.

to 60. Davy<sup>a</sup> concluded, that his lungs, after a forced expiration, still retained 41 cubic inches of air; after a natural expiration they contained 118 cubic inches; after a natural inspiration, 135; after a forced inspiration, 254; by a full forced expiration after a forced inspiration, he threw out 190 cubic inches; after a natural inspiration, 78·5; after a natural expiration, 67·5.

Mr. Julius Jeffreys<sup>b</sup> divides the air of respiration into four quantities—*First*, the *residual air*, or that which cannot be expelled from the lungs, but remains after a full and forcible expiration, which he estimates at 120 cubic inches—*Secondly*, the *supplementary air*, or that which can be expelled by a forcible expiration, after an ordinary outbreathing, valued at 180 cubic inches—*Thirdly*, the *breath*, or tidal air, valued at 26 cubic inches; and *Fourthly*, the *complementary air*, or that which can be inhaled after an ordinary inspiration, which amounts to 100 cubic inches. This estimate gives 250 cubic inches as the average volume which the chest contains after an ordinary expiration.

It is impossible, from such variable data as the above, to deduce any thing like a satisfactory conclusion; but if we assume with Dr. Bostock, (and Dr. Thomson<sup>c</sup> is disposed to adopt the estimate,) 170 cubic inches as the quantity that may be forcibly expelled, and that 120 cubic inches will be still left in the lungs, we shall have 290 cubic inches as the measure of the lungs in their natural or quiescent state; to this quantity 40 cubic inches are added by each ordinary inspiration, giving 330 cubic inches as the measure of the lungs in their distended state. Hence it would seem, that about one-eighth of the whole contents of the lungs is changed by each respiration; and that rather more than two-thirds can be expelled by a forcible expiration. Supposing that each act of respiration occupies three seconds, or that we respire twenty times in a minute, a quantity of air, rather more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the whole contents of the lungs, will be expelled in a minute, or about four thousand times their bulk in twenty-four hours. The quantity of air respired during this period, will be 1,152,000 cubic inches, about 666 $\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet. Such is Dr. Bostock's estimate. It is the residuary air, that gives to the lungs the property of floating on the surface of water, after they have once received the breath of life, and no pressure, that can be employed, will force out the air, so as to make them sink.<sup>d</sup> Hence, the chief proofs, whether a child has been born alive or dead, are deduced from the lungs. These proofs constitute the *docimasia pulmonum*, *Lungenprobe*, or *Athemprobe*, ("Lung-proof or Respiration-proof,") of the Germans.

Expiration, like inspiration, has been divided into three grades; *ordinary*, *free*, and *forced*; but it must necessarily admit of multitudinous shades of difference. In *ordinary* passive respiration, expiration is effected solely by the relaxation of the diaphragm. In *free* active respiration, the muscles that raise the ribs are likewise relaxed,

<sup>a</sup> Op. citat., p. 411.

<sup>b</sup> Views upon the Statics of the Human Chest, &c., London, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> System of Chemistry, vol. iv.

<sup>d</sup> Mr. Jennings, Transactions of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, vol. i.

and there is a slight action of the direct expiratory muscles. In *forced* expiration, all the respiratory muscles are thrown into action. In this manner, the air makes its way along the air-passages through the mouth or nostrils or both; carrying with it a fresh portion of the halitus from the mucous membrane. This it deposits, when the atmosphere is colder than the temperature acquired by the respired air, and if the atmosphere be sufficiently cold, as in winter, the vapour becomes condensed as it passes out, and renders expiration visible.

If the whole time occupied by a respiratory act—that is, from the beginning of one inspiration to the beginning of the next, be represented by 10, the time occupied by the inspiratory movement has been estimated approximately at 5; that of the expiratory at 4; and of the pause between the expiratory and succeeding inspiratory movement at 1.\*

The number of respirations in a given time differs considerably in different individuals. Dr. Hales reckons them at twenty. A man, on whom Menzies made experiments, breathed only fourteen times in a minute. Sir Humphry Davy made between twenty-six and twenty-seven in a minute. Dr. Thomson about nineteen, and Magendie fifteen. Our own average is sixteen. The average, deduced from the few observers, who have recorded their observations,—or twenty per minute,—has generally been taken; but we are satisfied it is above the truth; eighteen would be nearer the general average, and it has accordingly been admitted by many. Eighteen in a minute give twenty-five thousand nine hundred and twenty in the twenty-four hours. The number is influenced, however, by various circumstances. The child and the female, and perhaps also the aged, breathe more rapidly than the adult male. MM. Hourmann and Dechambre<sup>b</sup> examined two hundred and fifty-five women between the ages of sixty and ninety-six, the average number of whose respirations was 21·79 per minute. We find as much variety in man as we do in the horse: whilst some men are short, others are long-winded; and this last condition may be improved by appropriate *training*, to which the pedestrian and the prize-fighter, equally with the horse, are subjected for some time before they are called upon to exhibit their powers. In sleep, the respiration is generally deeper, less frequent, and appears to be effected greatly by the intercostals and diaphragm.<sup>c</sup> Motion has also a sensible effect in hurrying the respiration, as well as distension of the stomach by food, certain mental emotions, &c.: its condition during disease becomes also a subject of interesting study to the physician, and one that has been much facilitated by the acoustic method introduced by Laënnec. To his instrument—the *stethoscope*—allusion has already been made. By it, or by the ear applied to the chest, we are able to hear distinctly the respiratory murmur and its modifications; and thus to judge of the nature of the pulmonary affection

\* *Walsh, Physical Diagnosis and Diseases of the Lungs*, Amer. edit., p. 11, Philad. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Archiv. Génér. de Médecine*, Nov. 1835; and *British and Foreign Med. Rev.*, April, 1836, p. 555.

<sup>c</sup> *Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme*, iii, 185.



when existent. But this is a topic that appertains more especially to pathology.

### 3. RESPIRATORY PHENOMENA CONCERNED IN CERTAIN FUNCTIONS.

There are certain respiratory movements concerned in effecting other functions, which require consideration. Some of these have already been topics of discussion. Adelon<sup>a</sup> has classed them into: *First.* Those employed in the *sense of smell*, either for the purpose of conveying the odorous molecules into the nasal fossæ; or to repel them and prevent their ingress. *Secondly.* The inspiratory action employed in the *digestive function*, as in *sucking*. *Thirdly.* Those connected with muscular motion when forcibly exerted; and particularly with *straining* or the employment of *violent effort*. *Fourthly.* Those concerned in the various *excretions*, either voluntary,—as in *defecation* and *spitting*; or involuntary,—as in *coughing*, *sneezing*, *vomiting*, *accouchement*, &c.; and *lastly*, such as constitute phenomena of *expression*,—as *sighing*, *yawning*, *laughing*, *crying*, *sobbing*, &c. Some of these, that have already engaged attention, do not demand comment; others are topics of considerable interest, and require investigation.

1. *Straining.*—The state of respiration is much affected during the more active voluntary movements. Muscular exertion of whatever kind, when considerable, is preceded by a long and deep inspiration; the glottis is then closed; the diaphragm and respiratory muscles of the chest are contracted, as well as the abdominal muscles which press upon the contents of the abdomen in all directions. At the same time that the proper respiratory muscles are exerted, those of the face participate, owing to their association through the medium of particular nerves. By this series of actions, the chest is rendered capacious; and the force that can be developed is augmented, in consequence of the trunk being rendered immovable as regards its individual parts,—thus serving as a fixed point for the muscles that arise from it, so that they are enabled to employ their full effort.<sup>b</sup>

The physiological state of muscular action, as connected with the mechanical function of respiration, is happily described by Shakespeare, when he makes the fifth Harry encourage his soldiers at the siege of Harfleur:<sup>c</sup>

In the effort required for effecting the various excretions, a similar action of the respiratory muscles takes place. The organs, from which these excretions have to be removed, exist either in the thorax or abdomen; and in all cases they have to be compressed by the parietes of those cavities. A full inspiration is first made; the expiratory muscles, with those that close the glottis, are then forcibly and simultaneously contracted, and by this means the thoracic and abdominal viscera are compressed. Some difference, however,

<sup>a</sup> Ibid. p. 188.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 190; and art. *Effort*, in *Dict. de Méd.* vii. 319, Paris, 1823.

<sup>c</sup> "Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood;  
Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostrils wide;  
Hold hard the breath and bend up every spirit  
To its full height."  
King Henry V. iii. 1.

exists, according as the viscous to be emptied is seated in the abdomen or thorax. In the evacuation of the fæces, the lungs are first filled with air; and whilst the muscles of the larynx contract to close the glottis, those of the abdomen contract also; and as the lung, in consequence of the included air, resists the ascent of the diaphragm, the compression bears upon the large intestine. The same happens in the excretion of the urine, and in accouchement.

2. *Coughing and Sneezing*.—When the organ that has to be cleared is in the thorax,—as in *coughing* to remove mucus from the air-passages—the same action of the muscles of the abdomen is invoked; but the glottis is open to allow the exit of the mucus. In this case, the expiratory muscles contract convulsively and forcibly, so that the air is driven violently from the lungs, and, in its passage, sweeps off the irritating matter and conveys it out of the body. To aid this, the muscular fibres, at the posterior part of the trachea and
  - larger bronchial tubes, contract, so as to diminish the calibre of these canals; and in this way expectoration is facilitated. The action differs, however, according as the expired air is sent through the nose or mouth; in the former case, constituting *sneezing*; in the latter, *coughing*. The former is more violent than the latter, and is involuntary; whilst the latter is not necessarily so. In both cases the movement is excited by some external irritant, applied directly to the mucous membrane of the windpipe or nose; or by some modified action in the very tissue of the part, which acts as an irritating cause. In both cases the air is driven forcibly forward, and both are accompanied by sounds that cannot be mistaken. In these actions, we have striking exemplifications of the extensive association of muscles, through the medium of nerves, to which we have so often alluded. The pathologist, too, has repeated opportunities for observing the extensive sympathy between distant parts of the frame, as indicated by the actions of sneezing and coughing, especially of the former. If a person be exposed for a short period to the partial and irregular application of cold, so that the capillary action of a part of the body is modified, as where we get the feet wet, or sit in a draught of air, a few minutes will frequently be sufficient to exhibit sympathetic irritation in the Schneiderian membrane of the nose, and sneezing. Nor is it necessary, that the capillary action of a distant part shall be modified by the application of cold. We have had the most positive evidence, that if the capillary circulation be irregularly excited, even by the application of heat, whilst the rest of the body is receiving none of its influence, inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nasal fossæ and fauces may follow with no less certainty.

3. *Blowing the Nose*.—The substance that has to be excreted by this operation is composed of the nasal mucus, the tears sent down the ductus ad nasum, and the particles deposited on the membrane by the air in its passage through the nasal fossæ. Commonly, these secretions are only present in quantity sufficient to keep the membrane moist, the remainder being evaporated or absorbed. Frequently, however, they exist in such quantity as to fall by their own gravity into the pharynx, where they are sent down into the stomach by

deglutition, are thrown out at the mouth, or make their exit at the anterior nares. To prevent this last effect more especially, we have recourse to blowing the nose. This is accomplished by taking in air, and driving it out suddenly and forcibly, closing the mouth at the same time, so that the air may issue by the nasal fossæ and clear them; the nose being compressed so as to make the velocity of the air greater, as well as to express all the mucus that may be forced forwards.

4. *Spitting* differs somewhat according to the part in which the mucus or matter to be ejected is seated. At times, it is exclusively in the mouth; at others in the back part of the nose, pharynx, or larynx. When the mucus or saliva of the mouth has to be excreted, the muscular parietes of the cavity, as well as the tongue, contract so as to eject it from the mouth; the lips being at times approximated, so as to render the passage narrow, and impel the sputa more strongly forward. The air of expiration may be, at the same time, driven forcibly through the mouth, so as to send the matter to a considerable distance. The practised spitter sometimes astonishes us with the accuracy and power of propulsion of which he is capable. When the matter to be evacuated is in the nose, pharynx, or larynx, it requires to be brought, first of all, into the mouth. If in the posterior nares, the mouth is closed, and the air is drawn in forcibly through the nose, the pharynx being at the same time constricted so as to prevent the substances from passing down into the œsophagus. The pharynx now contracts, from below to above, in an inverse movement from that required in deglutition, and the farther excretion from the mouth is effected in the manner just described.

Where the matters are situate in the air-passages, the action may consist in coughing; or, if higher up, simply in *hawking*. A forcible expiration, unaccompanied by cough, is, indeed, in many cases, sufficient to detach the superfluous mucous secretion from even the bronchial tubes. In hawking, the expired air is sent forcibly forwards, and the parts about the fauces are suddenly contracted so as to diminish the capacity of the tube and propel the matter onwards. The noise is produced by their discordant vibrations. Both these modes bear the general name of *expectoration*.

When these secretions are swallowed, they are subjected to the digestive process; a part is taken up, and the remainder rejected; so that they belong to the division of *recremento-excrementitial fluids* of some physiologists.

#### 4. RESPIRATORY PHENOMENA CONNECTED WITH EXPRESSION.

It remains to speak of the expiratory phenomena that strictly form part of the function of expression, and depict the moral feeling of the individual who gives utterance to them.

1. *Sighing* consists of a deep inspiration, by which a large quantity of air is received slowly and gradually into the lungs, to compensate for the deficiency in the due aeration of the blood which precedes it. The most common cause of sighing is mental uneasiness; it also occurs at the approach of sleep, or immediately after waking. In

all these cases, the respiratory efforts are executed more imperfectly than under ordinary circumstances; the blood consequently does not circulate through the lungs in due quantity, but accumulates more or less in these organs, and in the right side of the heart; and it is to restore the due balance, that the deep inspiration is now and then established.

2. *Yawning, oscitancy, oscitation, or gaping*, is likewise a full, deep, and protracted inspiration, accompanied by a wide separation of the jaws, and followed by a prolonged and sometimes sonorous expiration. Yawning is excited by many of the same causes as sighing. It is not, however, the expression of any depressing passion, but is occasioned by any circumstance that impedes the necessary aeration of the blood; whether this be retardation of the action of the respiratory muscles, or the air being less rich in oxygen. Hence we yawn at the approach of sleep, and immediately after waking. The inspiratory muscles, fatigued from any cause, experience some difficulty in dilating the chest; the lungs are consequently not properly traversed by the blood from the right side of the heart: oxygenation is, therefore, not duly effected, and an uneasy sensation is induced, which is put an end to by the action of yawning, which allows the admission of a considerable quantity of air. We yawn at the approach of sleep, because the agents of respiration, becoming gradually more debilitated, require to be now and then excited to fresh activity, and the blood needs the necessary aeration. Yawning on waking seems to be partly for the purpose of stimulating the respiratory muscles to greater activity, the respiration being always slower and deeper during sleep. It is, of course, impossible to explain, why the respiratory nerves should be those that are chiefly concerned, under the guidance of the brain, in these respiratory movements of an expressive character. The fact, however, is certain; and it is remarkably proved by the circumstance, that yawning can be excited by even looking at another affected in this manner; nay, by simply looking at a sketch, and by even thinking of the action. The same also applies to sighing and laughing, and especially to the latter.

3. *Pandiculation or stretching* is a frequent concomitant of yawning, and appears to be established instinctively to arouse the extensor muscles to a balance of power, when the action of the flexors has been predominant. In sleep, the flexor muscles exercise that preponderance which, in the waking state, is exerted by the extensors. This, in time, is productive of some uneasiness; and, hence, occasionally during sleep, but still more at the moment of waking, the extensor muscles are roused to action to restore the equipoise; or, perhaps, as the muscles of the upper extremities, and those concerned directly or indirectly in respiration, are chiefly concerned in the action, it is exerted for the purpose of arousing the respiratory muscles to increased activity.

By Dr. Good,\* yawning and stretching have been regarded as morbid affections and amongst the signs of debility and lassitude:—"Every one," he remarks, "who resigns himself ingloriously to a life of lassi-

\* Study of Medicine, class 4, ord. 3, gen. 2, sp. 6.

tude and indolence, will be sure to catch these motions as a part of that general idleness which he covets. And, in this manner, a natural and useful action is converted into a morbid habit; and there are loungers to be found in the world, who, though in the prime of life, spend their days as well as their nights in a perpetual routine of these convulsive movements, over which they have no power; who cannot rise from the sofa without stretching their limbs, nor open their mouths to answer a plain question without gaping in one's face. The disease is here idiopathic and chronic; it may perhaps be cured by a permanent exertion of the will, and ridicule or hard labour will generally be found the best remedies for calling the will into action."

4. *Laughing* is a convulsive action of the muscles of respiration and voice, accompanied by a facial expression, which has been explained elsewhere. It consists of a succession of short, sonorous expirations. The air is first inspired so as to fill the lungs. To this succeed short, interrupted expirations, with simultaneous contractions of the muscles of the glottis, so that this aperture is slightly contracted, and the lips assume the tension, necessary for the production of sound. The interrupted character of the expirations is caused by convulsive contractions of the diaphragm, which constitute the greater part of the action. In very violent laughter, the respiratory muscles are thrown into such forcible contractions, that the hands are applied to the sides to support them. The convulsive action of the thorax likewise interferes with the circulation through the lungs; the blood, consequently, stagnates in the upper part of the body; the face becomes flushed; the sweat trickles down the forehead, and the eyes are suffused with tears; but this is apparently owing to mechanical causes; not to the lachrymal gland being excited to unusual action, as in weeping. At times, however, we find the latter cause in operation, also.

5. *Weeping*. The action of weeping is very similar to that of laughing; although the causes are so dissimilar. It consists in an inspiration, followed by a succession of short, sonorous expirations. The facial expression, so diametrically opposite to that of laughter, has been depicted in another place.

Laughter and weeping appear to be characteristic of humanity. Animals shed tears, but this does not seem to be accompanied with the mental emotion that characterizes crying in the sense in which we employ the term. It has, indeed, been affirmed by Steller,<sup>a</sup> that the *phoca ursina* or *ursine seal*; by Pallas,<sup>b</sup> that the camel; and by Von Humboldt,<sup>c</sup> that a small American monkey, shed tears when labouring under distressing emotions. The last scientific traveller states, that "the countenance of the *titi* of the Orinoco,—the *simia sciurea* of Linnæus,—is that of a child; the same expression of innocence; the same smile; the same rapidity in the transition from joy to sorrow. The Indians affirm, that it weeps like man, when it expe-

<sup>a</sup> Nov. Comm. Academ. Scient. Petropol. ii. 353.

<sup>b</sup> Sammlung Historisch. Nachricht, über die Mongolischen Völkerschaften, Th. i. 177.

<sup>c</sup> Recueil d'Observations de Zoologie, &c. i. 333.

riences chagrin; and the remark is accurate. The large eyes of the ape are suffused with tears, when it experiences fear or any acute suffering."

Shakspeare's description of the weeping of the stag,—

"That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a hurt,"

is doubtless familiar to most of our readers.<sup>a</sup> We have less evidence in favour of the laughter of animals. Le Cat,<sup>b</sup> indeed, asserts, that he saw the chimpanzé both laugh and weep. The ourang-outang, carried to Great Britain from Batavia by Dr. Clarke Abel, never laughed; but he was seen occasionally to weep.<sup>c</sup>

6. *Sobbing* still more resembles laughing, except that, like weeping, it is usually indicative of the depressing passions; and generally accompanies weeping. It consists of a convulsive action of the diaphragm; which is alternately raised and depressed, but to a greater extent than in laughing, and with less rapidity. It is susceptible of various degrees, and has the same physical effects upon the circulation as weeping. Dr. Wardrop<sup>d</sup> considers laughter, crying, weeping, sobbing, sighing, &c., as efforts made with a view to effect certain alterations in the quantity of blood in the lungs and heart, when the circulation has been disturbed by mental emotions.

7. *Panting* or *anhelation* consists in a succession of alternate, quick, and short inspirations and expirations. Their physiology, however, does not differ from that of ordinary respiration. The object is, to produce a frequent renewal of air in the lungs, in cases where the circulation is unusually rapid; or where, owing to disease of the thoracic viscera, a more than ordinary supply of fresh air is demanded. We can, hence, understand, why dyspnoea should be one of the concomitants of most of the severe diseases of the chest; and why it should occur whenever the air we breathe does not contain a sufficient quantity of oxygen. The panting, produced by running, is owing to the necessity for keeping the chest as immovable as possible, that the whole effort may be exerted on the muscles of locomotion; and thus suspending, for a time, the respiration, or admitting

"The wretched animal heaved forth such groans,  
That their discharge did stretch his leathern coat  
Almost to bursting; and the big round tears  
Coursed one another down his innocent nose\*  
In piteous chase; and thus the hairy fool,  
Much marked of the melancholy Jaques,  
Stood on th' extremest verge of the swift brook,  
Augmenting it with tears."

*As You Like It*, ii. 1.

<sup>a</sup> *Traité de l'Existence du Fluide des Nerfs*, p. 35.

<sup>b</sup> Lawrence, *Lectures on Physiology, Zoology, and the Natural History of Man*, p. 236, Lond. 1814.

<sup>c</sup> *On the Nature and Treatment of Diseases of the Heart*, part i. p. 62, Lond. 1837.

<sup>d</sup> "The alleged 'big round tears,' which 'course one another down the innocent nose' of the deer, the hare, and other animals, when hotly pursued, are in fact only sebaceous matter, which, under these circumstances, flows in profusion from a collection of follicles in the hollow of the cheek."—*Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology*, part. ii. §. p. 50, Edinb. 1836.

only of its imperfect accomplishment. This induces an accumulation of blood in the lungs and right side of the heart; and panting is the consequence of the augmented action necessary for transmitting it through the vessels.

b. *Chemical Phenomena of Respiration.*

Having studied the mode in which air is received into, and expelled from, the lungs, we have now to inquire into the changes produced on the venous blood—containing the products of the various absorptions—in the lungs, as well as on the air itself. These changes are effected by the function of *sanguification*, *hæmatosis*, *respiration*, in the restricted sense in which it is employed by some, *arterialization*, *decarbonization*, *aëration*, *atmospherization*, &c., of the blood. With the ancients this process was but little understood. It was generally believed to act as the means of cooling the body; and, in modern times, Helvetius revived the notion, attributing to it the office of refrigerating the blood,—heated by its passage through the long and narrow channels of the circulation,—by the cool air constantly received into the lungs. The reasons, that led to this opinion, were:—that the air, which enters the lungs in a cool state, issues warm; and that the pulmonary veins, which convey the blood from the lungs, are of less dimension than the pulmonary artery, which conveys it to them. From this it was concluded, that the blood, during its progress through the lungs, must lose somewhat of its volume or be condensed by refrigeration. The warmth of the expired air can, however, be readily accounted for; and it is not true that the pulmonary veins are smaller than the pulmonary artery. The reverse is, indeed, the fact; and it is equally obvious, that the doctrine of Helvetius does not explain how we can exist in a temperature superior to our own: this ought, in his hypothesis, to be impracticable.\*

Another theory, which prevailed for some time, was:—that during inspiration the vessels of the lungs are unfolded, as it were, and that thus the passage of the blood from the right side of the heart to the left, through the lungs, is facilitated. Its progress was, indeed, conceived to be impossible during expiration, in consequence of the considerable flexures of the pulmonary vessels. The discovery of the circulation of the blood gave rise to this theory; and Haller<sup>b</sup> attaches considerable importance to it, when taken in connexion with the changes effected upon the blood in the vessels. It is inaccurate, however, to suppose, that the circulation of the blood through the lungs is mechanically interrupted, when respiration is arrested. The experiments of Drs. Williams<sup>c</sup> and Kay<sup>d</sup> would seem to show, that the interruption is ascribable to the non-conversion of venous into arterial blood, and to the non-adaptation of the radicles of the pulmonary veins for any thing but arterial blood, owing to which causes stagnation of blood

\* Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. cit. iii. 201.

<sup>b</sup> *Element. Physiol.* viii.

<sup>c</sup> *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. lxxvii. 1823.

<sup>d</sup> *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, vol. xxix.; and *Physiology and Pathology, &c., of Asphyxia*. Lond. 1834.

supervenes in the pulmonary radicles.\* Numerous other objections might be made to this view. In the first place, it supposes, that the lungs are emptied at each expiration; and, again, if a simple deploying or unfolding of the vessels were all that is required, any gas ought to be sufficient for respiration,—which is not the fact.

In these different theories, the principal object of respiration is overlooked—the conversion of the venous blood and its various absorptions, conveyed to the lungs by the pulmonary artery, into arterial blood. This is effected by the contact of the inspired air with the venous blood; in which they both lose certain elements, and gain others. Most physiologists have considered that the whole function of hæmatosis is effected in the lungs. Chaussier,<sup>b</sup> however, has presumed, that the air, in passing through the cavities of the nose and mouth, and the different bronchial ramifications, experiences some kind of elaboration, by being agitated with the bronchial mucus; similar to what he conceives to be effected by the mucus on the aliment in its passage from the mouth to the stomach; but his view is conjectural in both one case and the other.

Legallois,<sup>c</sup> again, thought, that hæmatosis commences at the part, where the chyle and lymph are mixed with the venous blood, or in the subclavian vein. This admixture, he conceives, occurs more or less immediately; is aided in the heart, and the conversion is completed in the lungs. To this belief he was led by the circumstance, that when the blood quits the lungs it is manifestly arterial, and he thought, that what the products of absorption lose or gain in the lungs is too inconsiderable to account for the important and extensive change; and that therefore it must have commenced previously. Facts, however, are not exactly in accordance with the view of Legallois. They seem to show, that the blood of the pulmonary artery is analogous to that of the subclavian veins; and hence it is probable, that there is no other action exerted upon the fluid in this part of the venous system, than a more intimate admixture of the venous blood with the chyle and lymph in their passage through the heart.

The changes, wrought on the air by respiration, are considerable. It is immediately deprived of a portion of both of its main constituents—oxygen and azote; and it always contains, when expired, a quantity of carbonic acid greater than it had when received into the lungs, along with an aqueous and albuminous exhalation to a considerable amount.

*Oxygen* is consumed in the respiration of all animals, from the largest quadruped to the most insignificant insect; and if we examine the expired air, the deficiency is manifest. Many attempts have been made to estimate the precise quantity consumed during respiration;

\* See the article "Asphyxia," by the author, in the "American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery," part x., Philad. 1836; and in *Practice of Medicine*, 2d edit., i. 408, Philad. 1844; also, Dr. W. P. Alison, in Fourth Report of the British Association, and in *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, for Jan. 1836; and Dr. J. Reid, on the order and succession in which the vital actions are arrested in Asphyxia, in *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, April, 1841, p. 437.

<sup>b</sup> Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, iii. 205.

<sup>c</sup> *Annales de Chimie*, iv. 115.



but the results vary essentially from each other; partly owing to the fact, that the amount consumed by the same animal in different circumstances, is not identical. Menzies<sup>a</sup> was probably the first that attempted to ascertain the quantity consumed by a man in a day. According to him, 36 cubic inches are expended in a minute; and, consequently, 51,840 in the twenty-four hours, equal to 17,496 grains. Lavoisier<sup>b</sup> makes it 46,048 cubic inches, or 15,541 grains. This was the result of his earlier experiments; and, in his last, which he was executing at the time when he fell a victim to the tyranny of Robespierre, he made it 15592.5 grains; corresponding largely with the results of his earlier observations. The experiments of Sir Humphry Davy<sup>c</sup> coincide greatly with those of Lavoisier. He found the quantity consumed in a minute to be 31.6 cubic inches; making 45,504 cubic inches, or 15,337 grains in twenty-four hours. The results obtained by Messrs. Allen and Pepys<sup>d</sup> make it much less. They consider the average consumption to be, in the twenty-four hours, under ordinary circumstances, 39,534 cubic inches, equal to 13,343 grains. Now, if we regard the experiments of Lavoisier and Davy, between which there is the greatest coincidence, to be an approximation to the truth, it will follow, that in a day, a man consumes rather more than 25 cubic feet of oxygen; and as the oxygen amounts to only about one-fifth of the respired air, he must render 125 cubic feet of air unfit for supporting combustion and respiration. The experiments of Crawford, Jurine, Lavoisier and Séguin, Prout, Fyfe, and Edwards,<sup>e</sup> have proved, that the quantity of oxygen consumed varies according to the condition of the functions and of the system generally. Séguin<sup>f</sup> found, that muscular exertion increases it nearly fourfold. Prout,<sup>g</sup> who gave much attention to the subject, was induced to conclude, from his experiments, that moderate exercise increases the consumption; but if the exercise be continued so as to induce fatigue, a diminished consumption takes place. The exhilarating passions also appeared to increase the quantity; whilst the depressing passions and sleep, the use of alcohol and tea, diminished it. He discovered, also, that the quantity of oxygen consumed is not uniformly the same during the twenty-four hours. Its maximum occurred between 10 A. M. and 2 P. M., or generally between 11 A. M. and 1 P. M.; its minimum commenced about 8½ P. M., and it continued nearly uniform till about 3½ A. M. Dr. Fyfe<sup>h</sup> found, that the quantity was likewise diminished by a course of nitric acid, by a vegetable diet, and by affecting the system with mercury. Temperature, also, has an influence. Crawford<sup>i</sup> found, that a Guinea-pig, confined in air at the temperature of 55° consumed double the quantity which it did in air at 104°. He also observed, in such cases, that the venous

<sup>a</sup> Dissertation on Respiration, p. 21. Edinb. 1796.

<sup>b</sup> Mémoir de l'Académ. des Sciences, 1789, 1790.

<sup>c</sup> Researches, &c., p. 431.

<sup>d</sup> Philos. Transact. for 1808.

<sup>e</sup> De l'Influence des Agens Physiques sur la Vie, p. 410, Paris, 1824; or Hodgkin and Fieber's translation.

<sup>f</sup> Mém. de l'Académ. des Sciences, 1789 and 1790.

<sup>g</sup> Annals of Philos. ii. 330, iv. 331, and xiii. 269.

<sup>h</sup> Annals of Philos. iv. 334, and Bostock's Physiol. i. 350.

<sup>i</sup> Op. cit. p. 387.

blood, when the body was exposed to a high temperature, had not its usual dark colour; but, by its florid hue, indicated that the full change had not taken place in its constitution, in the course of circulation. The same fact is mentioned by a recent observer, who affirms, that if, when an animal is near dying from the effect of heat, an artery be opened, its blood is as black as that of a vein, and does not become bright by exposure.

We may thus understand the great lassitude and yawning, induced by the hot weather of summer; and the languor and listlessness which are so characteristic of those who have long resided in torrid climes. Dr. Prout conceives, that the presence or absence of the sun alone regulates the variation in the consumption of oxygen which he has described; but the deduction of Dr. Fleming<sup>a</sup> appears to us more legitimate,—that it keeps pace with the degree of muscular action, and is dependent upon it. Consequently, a state of increased consumption is always followed by an equally great decrease, in the same manner as activity is followed by fatigue.

The disagreement of experimenters, as respects the removal of *nitrogen* or *azote* from the air, during respiration, is still greater than in the case of oxygen. Priestley, Davy, Humboldt, Henderson, Cuvier, Pfaff, and Thomson, found a less quantity exhaled than was inspired. Spallanzani, Lavoisier and Séguin, Vauquelin, Allen and Pepys, Ellis, and Dalton, inferred that neither absorption nor exhalation takes place,—the quantity of that gas, in their opinion, undergoing no change during its passage through the air-cells of the lungs; whilst Jurine, Nysten, Berthollet, and Dulong and Despretz, on the contrary, found an increase in the bulk of the azote.<sup>b</sup> In this uncertainty, most physiologists have been of opinion that the azote is entirely passive in the function. The facts, ascertained by Dr. W. F. Edwards,<sup>c</sup> of Paris, shed considerable light on the causes of this discrepancy amongst observers. He has satisfactorily shown that, during the respiration of the same animal, the quantity of azote may, at one time, be augmented, at another, diminished, and, at a third, wholly unchanged. These phenomena he has traced to the influence of the seasons, and he suspects that other causes have a share in their production. In nearly all the lower animals that were the subjects of experiment, an augmentation of azote was observable during summer. Sometimes, indeed, it was so slight that it might be disregarded; but, in numerous other instances, it was so great as to place the fact beyond the possibility of doubt; and, on some occasions, it almost equalled the whole bulk of the animal. Such were the results of his observations until the close of October, when he noticed a sensible diminution in the nitrogen of the inspired air, and the same continued throughout the whole of winter and the beginning of spring. Dr. Edwards considers it probable, that, in all cases, both exhalation and absorption of azote are going on; that they are frequently accurately balanced, so as to exhibit neither excess nor deficiency of azote in the expired air, whilst, in other cases, depending, as it would appear, chiefly upon

<sup>a</sup> Philosophy of Zoology, Edinburgh, 1822.

<sup>b</sup> Bostock, *op. citat.* 3d edit., p. 356.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. citat.*, p. 462.

temperature, either the absorption or the exhalation is in excess, producing a corresponding effect upon the composition of the air of expiration.

But not only has the respired air lost its oxygenous portion, it has gained, as we have remarked, an accession of *carbonic acid*, and, likewise, a quantity of serous vapour. If we breathe through a tube, one end of which is inserted into a vessel of lime-water, the fluid soon becomes milky, owing to the formation of carbonate of lime, which is insoluble in water. Carbonic acid must consequently have been given off from the lungs. In the case of this gas, again, the quantity, formed in the day, has been attempted to be computed. Jurine conceived, that the amount, in air once respired in natural respiration, is in the enormous proportion of  $\frac{1}{10}$ th or  $\frac{1}{12}$ th. Menzies, that it is  $\frac{1}{30}$ th; and, from his estimate of the total quantity of air respired in the twenty-four hours, he deduced the amount of carbonic acid formed to be 51,840 cubic inches, equal to 24105·6 grains. Lavoisier and Séguin,<sup>a</sup> in their first experiments, valued it at 17720·89 grains; but in the very next year they reduced their estimate more than one-half;—to 8450·20 grains; and, in Lavoisier's last experiment, it was farther reduced to 7550·4 grains. Sir Humphry Davy's estimate nearly corresponds with that of the first experiment of Lavoisier and Séguin,—17811·36 grains; and Messrs. Allen and Pepys accord pretty nearly with him. These gentlemen found, that atmospheric air, when inspired, issued on the succeeding expiration, charged with from 8 to 6 per cent. of carbonic acid gas; but this estimate exceeds considerably that of Dr. Apjohn,<sup>b</sup> of Dublin, who, in his experiments, found the expired air to contain only 3·6 per cent. of this gas. The experiments and observations of Crawford, Prout, Edwards, and others, to which we have referred—as regards the consumption of oxygen, under various circumstances—apply equally to the quantity of carbonic acid formed, which always bears a pretty close proportion to the oxygen consumed. These experiments also account, in some degree, for the discrepancy in the statements of different individuals on this subject.

One fatal objection, however, to all these estimates is, that more carbon must be given off than is received in the daily food. The experiments of Mr. Coathupe,<sup>c</sup> which were carefully conducted, make the amount of carbonic acid generated in the 24 hours, about 17·856 cubic inches, that is, 2·616 grains or 5½ ounces of solid carbon. Liebig found the proportion of carbon expired by himself to be 8½ ounces daily; by a soldier, 13½ ounces; by prisoners in close confinement, 7 ounces; and by a boy who took considerable exercise, 9 ounces.<sup>d</sup> Recently, farther experiments have been made on this subject by competent observers. Professor Scharling,<sup>e</sup> of Copenhagen, found, that, at the age of 35, he exhaled 7·7 ounces avoirdupois of car-

<sup>a</sup> Mémoire de l'Académie des Sciences, p. 609, Paris, 1790.

<sup>b</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, Jan., 1831; Dublin Hospital Reports, vol. v.; and Select Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, p. 230, Philad., 1831. See, also, Mr. Coathupe, Philos. Magaz., June, 1839.

<sup>c</sup> Philos. Magazine, June, 1839.

<sup>d</sup> Graham's Elements of Chemistry, Amer. edit., p. 686, Philad., 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Annales des Sciences Naturelles, Février, 1843; and Brit. and For. Med. Rev., for July, 1843, p. 285.

bon in the twenty-four hours—seven of which were passed in sleep. A soldier, 28 years of age, exhaled 8·15 ounces; a lad, of 16, 7·9 ounces; a young woman, aged 19, 5·83 ounces; a boy, 9½ years old, 3·069 ounces; and a girl, 10 years old, 4·42 ounces. In the two last, the time spent in sleep was 9 hours. From all his experiments, Professor Scharling deduces, that males exhale more carbonic acid than females; and children comparatively more than adults. These amounts, however, were exhaled both from the lungs and cutaneous surface. He constructed an air-tight chamber, of dimensions sufficient to permit him to remain in it for some time without inconvenience. This was connected with an apparatus by which the air was constantly renewed, and the air removed was carefully analyzed, in order to determine the quantity of carbonic acid contained in it. Of the 7·7 ounces exhaled by himself in the twenty-four hours, we may perhaps estimate the amount from the lungs at 5·5 ounces.

MM. Andral and Gavarret have been engaged in an interesting set of experiments on this subject. Their first object was to ascertain the modifying influence of age, sex, and constitution on the quantity of carbonic acid exhaled from the lungs. To determine this, their observations were made under circumstances as uniform as possible. Each experiment, too, was repeated several times on the same subject. The apparatus employed was so devised as to enable the respirations to be freely performed: no portion of the expired air was again inspired; and the greatest care was taken to analyze the expired air with accuracy. The general results obtained by these observers were as follows:—1. The quantity of carbonic acid exhaled by the lungs in a given time varies according to the age, sex, and constitution. 2. In both male and female, the quantity undergoes modification, according to the ages of the individuals experimented upon, quite independently of their weights. 3. In all periods of life, there is a difference between the male and female in the amount of carbonic acid exhaled from the lungs in a given time: *ceteris paribus*, man exhales a much larger quantity than woman. Between the ages of 16 and 40, the former exhales nearly twice as much as the latter. 4. In man, the quantity exhaled goes on regularly increasing from 8 to 30 years of age; and a remarkable augmentation takes place at puberty. After 30, it begins to decrease; and the decrease continues becoming more and more marked as the individual approaches nearer and nearer to extreme old age; so that, at this last period, it returns to the standard at which it was about the age of 10. 5. In woman the exhalation augments up to the period of puberty, according to the same law as in man: the increase then suddenly ceases, and the quantity continues at this low standard, with little variation so long as the catamenia regularly appear; but as soon as they cease, the exhalation of carbonic acid from the lungs undergoes a considerable augmentation, after which it decreases as in man, according as age advances. 6. During gestation, the amount of carbonic acid exhaled is raised temporarily to the standard which it attains after the cessation of the catamenia. 7. In both sexes, and at all ages, the quantity of carbonic acid exhaled by the lungs is greater in proportion to the strength of the constitution, and the developement of the muscular system.

The following table exhibits the quantity of solid carbon calculated to be exhaled in one hour at different ages: the *gramme* is equal to about 15½ grains.

Male.		Female.		
8 years.	5 grammes.	8 years.	5 grammes.	
15 . . . .	8·7	12-38 . . . .	6·4	The same standard continues in women during the whole of the menstrual period: but if the catamenia be temporarily suppressed, or pregnancy occur, it rises to the standard it attains after their entire cessation, namely, 8·4 grammes.
16 . . . .	10·8	38-50 . . . .	8·4	
18-20 . . . .	11·4	50-60 . . . .	7·3	
20-30 . . . .	12·2	60-80 . . . .	6·8	
30-40 . . . .	12·2	82 . . . .	6·0	
40-60 . . . .	10·1			
60-80 . . . .	9·2			
102 . . . .	5·9			

These numbers express the averages, the maximum amount being often considerably greater. In a young man of athletic system, and sound constitution, the quantity of carbonic acid exhaled in an hour was 14·1 grammes; a man of 60, equally vigorous for his age, exhaled 13·6 grammes; and one of 63, 12·4 grammes. An old man, of 92, who preserved a remarkable degree of energy, and who had possessed unusual vigour in his youth, was found to exhale 8·8 grammes per hour; whilst the same amount appeared to be the ordinary standard in a man of 45; who, unlike the last, had a feeble system, although he was in equally good health. How far these variations were connected with differences in the capacity of the chest, and with the number of the respiratory movements, MM. Andral and Gavarret proposed to investigate subsequently.

It has been a question amongst physiologists, whether the quantity of carbonic acid gas given out is equal in bulk to the oxygen taken in. In Priestley's experiments,<sup>a</sup> the latter had the preponderance. Menzies and Crawford found them to be equal. Lavoisier and Séguin supposed the oxygen, consumed in the twenty-four hours, to be 15661·66 grains; whilst the oxygen, required for the formation of the carbonic acid given out, was no more than 12,924 grains; and Sir Humphry Davy found the oxygen consumed in the same time to be 15,337 grains, whilst the carbonic acid produced was 17811·36 grains; which would contain 12824·18 grains of oxygen. The experiments of Allen and Pepys seem, however, to show that the oxygen which disappears is replaced by an equal volume of carbonic acid; and hence it was supposed that the whole of it must have been employed in the formation of this acid. They, consequently, accord with Menzies and Crawford; and the view is embraced by Dalton, Prout, Ellis, Henry, and other distinguished individuals.<sup>b</sup> On the other hand, the view of those, who consider that the quantity of carbonic acid produced is less than that of the oxygen which has disappeared, is embraced by Thomson, and by Dulong and Despretz. In the carnivorous animal, they found the difference as much as one-third; in

<sup>a</sup> Experiments, &c. on different kinds of Air, vol. iii.

<sup>b</sup> Bostock's Physiology, 3d edit. p. 352, Lond. 1836.

the herbivorous, on the average, only one-tenth. The experiments of Dr. Edwards have shown, that here, also, the discordance has not depended so much upon the different methods and skill of the operators, as upon a variation in the results arising from other causes; and he concludes, that the proportion of oxygen consumed, to that employed in the production of carbonic acid, varies from more than one-third of the volume of carbonic acid, to almost nothing; that the variation depends upon the particular animal species, subjected to experiment; upon its age, or upon some peculiarity of constitution, and that it differs considerably in the same individual at different times.

Recent interesting experiments by Valentin\* and Brunner, made on a large scale, seem to demonstrate, that the chemical changes in respiration are owing to the simple diffusion of gases taking place between those of the atmosphere and of the blood. The volumes of oxygen absorbed and of carbonic acid exhaled from the blood are determined by the established laws of the diffusion of gases, so that for one volume of carbonic acid exhaled, 1.17421 volume of oxygen are absorbed,—these numbers representing the proportionate diffusion volumes of the two gases, calculated according to the law of their being inversely as the square roots of their specific gravities,—or, by weight, for one part of carbonic acid, 0.85163 of oxygen. One part by weight of carbonic acid contains 0.72727 of oxygen; consequently for each part of carbonic acid discharged in respiration, there is an excess of 0.12436 of oxygen, which is disposed of otherwise than in forming the carbonic acid thrown off from the lungs, or, by volumes, for each one of carbonic acid an excess of 0.17421 of oxygen. Hence if it be known how much carbonic acid has been exhaled from the lungs in a given time, we may calculate how much oxygen has been absorbed in the same time. Valentin and Brunner satisfied themselves, that in a medium temperature and atmospheric pressure, they each, on an average of six experiments, breathed 562.929 litres of air in the hour, and each, in the same time, expired 635.8565 grains of carbonic acid, containing 173.414 grains of carbon. From this and their respective diffusion volumes the hourly consumption of oxygen was calculated at 541.5 grains. The results obtained by these gentlemen according greatly with those of MM. Andral and Gavarret.

It would appear, then, that the whole of the oxygen, which respiration abstracts from the air, is not accounted for, in all cases, by the quantity of carbonic acid formed; and that, consequently, a portion of it disappears altogether. It has been supposed by some, that a part of the watery vapour, given off during expiration, is occasioned by the union of a portion of the oxygen of the air with hydrogen from the blood in the lungs; but the view is conjectural and improbable. This subject, with the quantity of vapour combined with the expired air, will be the subject of inquiry under the head of Secretion.

The air likewise loses, during inspiration, certain foreign matters that may be diffused in it. In this way, medicines have been attempted to be conveyed into the system. If air, charged with odo-

\* *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, i. 547, cited by Mr. Paget, in *British and Foreign Medical Review*, Jan. 1845, p. 265.

rous particles,—as with those of turpentine,—be breathed for a short time, their presence in the urine will be detected; and it is probably in this manner, that miasmata produce their effects on the frame. All these substances pass immediately through the coats of the pulmonary veins by imbibition, and, in this way, speedily affect the system.

These changes, produced in the air during respiration, are easily shown, by placing an animal under a bell-glass until it dies. On examining the air, it will be found to have lost a portion of its oxygen and azote, and to contain carbonic acid and aqueous vapour. The expired air has always, even in greatly varying temperatures of the atmosphere, a temperature of from 97·25° to 99·5° Fah.,—most commonly the latter.\*

Let us now inquire whether the changes produced in the respired air be connected with those effected on the blood in the lungs. In its progress through the lungs, this fluid has been changed from *venous* into *arterial*. It has become of a florid red colour; of a stronger odour; of a higher temperature by from one to four degrees, according to some,<sup>b</sup> but others have perceived no difference, whilst others, again, have found it of lower temperature;<sup>c</sup> of less specific gravity, in the ratio of 1053 to 1050 on the average, according to Dr. John Davy,<sup>d</sup> and it coagulates more speedily, according to most observers; but Thackrah<sup>e</sup> observed the contrary.<sup>f</sup> That this conversion is owing to the contact of air in the lungs we have many proofs. Lower<sup>g</sup> was one of the first, who clearly pointed out, that the change of colour occurs in the capillaries of the lungs. Prior to his time, the most confused notions had prevailed on the subject, and the most visionary hypotheses had been indulged. On opening the thorax of a living animal, he observed the precise point of the circulation at which the change of colour takes place, and he showed, that it is not in the heart, since the blood continues to be purple, when it leaves the right ventricle. He then kept the lungs artificially distended, first with a regular supply of fresh air, and afterwards with the same portion of air without renewing it. In the former case, the blood experienced the usual change of colour. In the latter, it was returned to the left side of the heart unchanged.

Experiments, more or less resembling those of Lower, have been performed by Goodwyn,<sup>h</sup> Cigna, Bichat,<sup>i</sup> Wilson Philip, and numerous others, with similar results.

\* Valentin and Brunner, in Valentin's *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, i. 547, cited by Mr. Paget, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Jan. 1845, p. 265.

<sup>b</sup> Magendie, *Précis de Physiologie*, ii. 343; Dr. J. Davy, in *Philos. Transact.* for 1814; and Metcalf, on *Caloric*, ii. 548. Lond. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Wagner's *Elements of Physiology*, by R. Willis, § 180. Lond. 1840; and Simon's *Animal Chemistry*, vol. i. p. 193. Lond. 1845.

<sup>d</sup> *Physiological and Anatomical Researches*, vol. ii.

<sup>e</sup> *Inquiry into the Nature and Properties of the Blood*, p. 42. Lond. 1819.

<sup>f</sup> See, on this subject, J. Müller's *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 323; and Burdach's *Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, Band. iv. s. 381. Leipz. 1832.

<sup>g</sup> *Tractatus de Corde*, &c. c. iii. Amstelod. 1761.

<sup>h</sup> *The Connexion of Life with Respiration*, &c. Lond. 1788.

<sup>i</sup> *Recherches Physiol. sur la Vie et la Mort*. Paris, 1800.

The direct experiments of Priestley<sup>a</sup> more clearly showed, that the change, effected on the blood, was to be ascribed to the air. He found, that the clot of venous blood, when confined in a small quantity of air, assumed a scarlet colour, and that the air experienced the same change as from respiration. He afterwards examined the effects produced on the blood by the gaseous elements of the atmosphere separately, as well as by the other gaseous fluids that had been discovered. The clot was reddened more rapidly by oxygen than by the air of the atmosphere, whilst it was reduced to a dark purple by nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbonic acid.

Since Priestley's time, the effect of different gases on the colour of venous blood has been investigated by numerous individuals. The following is the result of their observations, as given by Thénard.<sup>b</sup> It must be remarked, however, that all the experiments have been made on blood, when out of the body; and it by no means follows, that precisely the same changes would be accomplished if the fluid were circulating in the vessels.

Gas.	Colour.	Remarks.
Oxygen . . . . .	Rose red.	The blood employed had been beaten, and, consequently, deprived of its fibrin.
Atmospheric air . . . .	Do.	
Ammonia . . . . .	Cherry red.	
Gaseous oxide of carbon . .	Slightly violet red.	
Deutoxide of azote . . .	Do.	
Carburetted hydrogen . .	Do.	These three gases coagulated the blood at the same time.
Azote . . . . .	Brown red.	
Carbonic acid . . . . .	Do. <sup>c</sup>	
Hydrogen . . . . .	Do.	
Protoxide of azote . . .	Do.	
Arsenuretted hydrogen . .	{ Deep violet, passing gradually to a greenish-brown.	
Sulphuretted hydrogen . .		
Chlorohydric acid gas . .	Maroon brown.	
Sulphurous acid gas . . .	Black brown.	
Chlorine . . . . .	{ Blackish-brown, passing by degrees to a yellowish-white.	

It is sufficiently manifest, then, from the disappearance of a part of the oxygen from the inspired air, and from the effects of that gas on venous blood out of the body, that it forms an essential part in the function of sanguification. But we have seen, that the expired air contains an unusual proportion of carbonic acid. Hence carbon, either in its simple state or united with oxygen, must have been given off from the blood in the vessels of the lungs.

To account for these changes on chemical principles has been a great object with chemical physiologists at all times. At an early period, the conversion of venous into arterial blood was supposed to be a kind of combustion; and, according to the notion of combus-

<sup>a</sup> Experiments, &c., on different kinds of Air, &c. Lond. 1781.

<sup>b</sup> Traité de Chimie, &c. 5e édit. Paris, 1827.

<sup>c</sup> Müller says he agitated blood with hydrogen, but could perceive no change of colour. Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 322, Lond. 1838.



tion then prevalent, it was presumed to consist in the disengagement of phlogiston; in other words, the abstraction or addition of a portion of phlogiston made the blood, it was conceived, arterial or venous; and the removal of phlogiston was looked upon as the principal use of respiration. This view was modified by Lavoisier, who proposed one of the chemical views to be now mentioned.

Two chief chemical theories have been framed to explain the mode in which the carbon is given off. The first is that of Black,<sup>a</sup> Priestley,<sup>b</sup> Lavoisier,<sup>c</sup> Crawford,<sup>d</sup> and others;<sup>e</sup>—that the oxygen of the inspired air attracts carbon from the venous blood, and that the carbonic acid is generated by their union. The second, which has been supported by La Grange,<sup>f</sup> Hassenfratz,<sup>g</sup> Edwards,<sup>h</sup> Müller,<sup>i</sup> Bischoff, Magnus, and others,—that the carbonic acid is generated in the course of the circulation, and is given off from the venous blood in the lungs, whilst oxygen gas is absorbed. The former of these views is still maintained by many physiologists. It is conceived, that the oxygen, derived from the air, unites with certain parts of the venous blood,—the carbon and the hydrogen,—owing to which union carbonic acid and water are found in the expired air; the venous blood, thus depurated of its carbon and hydrogen, becomes arterialized; and, in consequence of these various combinations, heat enough is disengaged to keep the body always at the due temperature. According to this theory, as we have seen in the views of Priestley, Lavoisier, &c., respiration is assimilated to combustion. The resemblance, indeed, between the two processes is striking. The presence of air is absolutely necessary for respiration; in every variety of respiration the air is robbed of a portion of its oxygen; and hence a fresh supply is continually needed; and respiration is always arrested before the whole of the oxygen of the air is exhausted, and this partly on account of the residuary azote, and the carbonic acid gas given off during expiration. Lastly, it can be continued much longer when an animal is confined in pure oxygen gas than in atmospheric air. All these circumstances likewise prevail in combustion. Every kind of combustion requires the presence of air. A part of the oxygen is consumed; and, unless the air is renewed, combustion is impossible. It is arrested, too, before the whole of the oxygen is consumed, owing to the residuary azote, and the carbonic acid formed; and it can be longer maintained in pure oxygen than in atmospheric air. Moreover, when the air has been respired, it becomes unfit for combustion,—and conversely. Again, the oxygen of the air, in which combustion is taking place, combines with the carbon and hydrogen of the burning body; hence the formation of carbonic acid and water; and, as in this combination, the oxygen passes from the state of a very rare gas, or one containing a considerable quantity of caloric between its molecules, to the con-

<sup>a</sup> Lectures on the Elements of Chemistry, by Robison, ii. 87, Edinb. 1803.

<sup>b</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1776, p. 147.

<sup>c</sup> Mém. de l'Acad. des Sciences, pour 1777, p. 185.

<sup>d</sup> On Animal Heat, 2d edit. Lond. 1788.

<sup>e</sup> Annales de Chimie, ix. 269.

<sup>f</sup> De l'Influence des Agens Physiques, &c. p. 411, Paris, 1823; and Hodgkin and Fisher's translation.

<sup>g</sup> Metcalfe, op. cit.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid. ix. 265.

<sup>i</sup> Physiology, by Baly, p. 537.

dition of a much denser gas, or even of a liquid, the whole of the caloric, which the oxygen contained in its former state, can no longer be held in the latter, and it is accordingly disengaged; hence the heat, which is given off. In like manner, in respiration, the oxygen of the inspired air, it is conceived, combines with the carbon and hydrogen of the venous blood, giving rise to the formation of carbonic acid and water; and, as in these combinations, the oxygen passes from the state of a very rare to that of a denser gas, or of a liquid, there is a considerable disengagement of caloric, which becomes the source of the high temperature maintained by the human body. M. Thénard<sup>a</sup> admits a modification of this view,—sanguification being owing, he conceives, to the combustion of the carbonaceous parts of the venous blood, and probably of its colouring matter, by the oxygen of the air.

This chemical theory, which originated chiefly with Lavoisier, and La Place and Séguin, was adopted by many physiologists with but little modification.

Mr. Ellis imagined, that the carbon is separated from the venous blood by a secretory process; and that then, coming into direct contact with oxygen, it is converted into carbonic acid. The circumstance that led him to this opinion, was his disbelief in the possibility of oxygen being able to act upon the blood through the animal membrane or coat of the vessel in which it is confined. It is obvious, however, that to reach the blood circulating in the lungs, the oxygen must, in all cases, pass through the coats of the pulmonary vessels. These coats, indeed, offer little or no obstacle, and, consequently, there is no necessity for the vital or secretory action suggested by Mr. Ellis. Besides, Priestley and Hassenfratz exposed venous blood to atmospheric air and oxygen in a bladder, and in all cases, the parts of the blood, in contact with the gases, became of a florid colour. The experiments of Faust, Mitchell, and others (vol. i., p. 49), are, in this respect, pregnant with interest. They prove the great facility with which the tissues are penetrated by gases, and confirm the facts developed by the experiments of Priestley, Hassenfratz, and others.

The second theory,—that the carbonic acid is generated in the course of the circulation,—was proposed by La Grange, in consequence of the objection he saw to the former hypothesis—that the lung ought to be consumed by the perpetual disengagement of caloric taking place within it; or, if not so, that its temperature ought, at least, to be much superior to that of other parts. He accordingly suggested, that, in the lungs, the oxygen is simply absorbed, passes into the venous blood, circulates with it, and unites, in its course, with the carbon and hydrogen, so as to form carbonic acid and water, which circulate with the blood and are finally exhaled from the lungs.

The ingenious and apparently accurate experiments of Dr. Edwards<sup>b</sup> prove convincingly, not only that oxygen is absorbed by the pulmonary vessels, but that carbonic acid is exhaled from them. When he confined a small animal in a large quantity of air, and continued the experiment sufficiently long, he found, that the rate of ab-

<sup>a</sup> *Traité de Chimie*, edit. citat.

<sup>b</sup> *Op. citat.*, p. 437, and Messrs. Allen and Pepys, in *Philos. Transactions* for 1829.

sorption was greater at the commencement than towards the termination of the experiment; whilst at the former period, there was an excess of oxygen present, and at the latter an excess of carbonic acid. This proved to him that the diminution was dependent upon the absorption of oxygen, not of carbonic acid. His experiments, in proof of the exhalation of carbonic acid, ready formed, by the lungs, are decisive. Spallanzani had asserted, that when certain of the lower animals are confined in gases, containing no oxygen, the production of carbonic acid is uninterrupted. Upon the strength of this assertion, Edwards confined hogs in pure hydrogen, for a length of time. The result indicated, that carbonic acid was produced, and in such quantity as to show, that it could not have been derived from the residuary air in the lungs; as it was, in some cases, equal to the bulk of the animal. The same results, although to a less degree, were obtained with fishes and snails,—the animals on which Spallanzani's observations were made. The experiments of Edwards were extended to the mammalia. Kittens, two or three days old, were immersed in hydrogen; they remained in this situation for nearly twenty minutes, without dying, and on examining the air of the vessel after death, it was found, that they had given off a quantity of carbonic acid greater than could possibly have been contained in their lungs at the commencement of the experiment. The conclusion, deduced by Dr. Edwards, from his various experiments, is, "that the carbonic acid expired is an exhalation proceeding wholly or in part from the carbonic acid contained in the mass of blood." Several experiments were subsequently made by M. Collard de Martigny,<sup>a</sup> who substituted azote for hydrogen; and, in all cases, carbonic acid gas was given out in considerable quantity.

These and other experiments would seem, then, to show, that in the lungs, carbonic acid is exhaled, and that oxygen and azote are absorbed. They would also seem to prove the existence of carbonic acid in venous blood, respecting which so much dissidence has existed amongst chemists.

Allusion has already been made to the fact, that gelatin is not met with in the blood, and to the idea of Dr. Prout,<sup>b</sup> that its formation from albumen must be a *reducing* process. This process he considers to be one great source of the carbonic acid, which exists in venous blood. Gelatin contains three or four per cent. less carbon than albumen; it enters into the structure of every part of the animal frame, and especially of the skin; the skin, indeed, contains little else than gelatin. Dr. Prout considers it, therefore, most probable, that a large part of the carbonic acid of venous blood is formed in the skin, and analogous textures. "Indeed," he adds, "we know that the skin of many animals gives off carbonic acid, and absorbs oxygen;—in other words, performs all the offices of the lungs;—a function of the skin perfectly intelligible, on the supposition, that near the surface of

<sup>a</sup> Journal de Physiologie, x. 111. For an account of various experiments relative to the exhalation of carbonic acid, during respiration in gases which contain no oxygen, see Müller's Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 336, Lond. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Bridgewater Treatise, Amer. edit., p. 260, Philad. 1834.

the body, the albuminous portions of the blood are always converted into gelatin." Gmelin, Tiedemann, Mitscherlich,<sup>a</sup> and Stromeyer,<sup>b</sup> affirm, on the strength of experiments, that the blood does not contain free carbonic acid gas, but that it holds a certain quantity in a state of combination, which is set free in the lungs, and commingles with the expired air. The views of Gmelin and Tiedemann, and Mitscherlich on this subject are as follows. It may be laid down as a truth, that the greater part, if not all, of the properties of secreted fluids are not dependent upon any act of the secreting organs, but are derived from the blood, which again, must either owe them to the food, or to changes effected on it within the body. These changes are probably accomplished, in part, during the process of digestion, but are doubtless mainly effected in the lungs by the contact of the blood with the air. Now, most of the animal fluids, when exposed to the air, generate, by the absorption of oxygen, acetic or lactic acid, and this is aided by an elevated temperature, like that of the lungs. In their theory of respiration, the azote of the inspired air is but sparingly absorbed; by far the greater proportion remaining in the air-cells. The oxygen, on the other hand, penetrates the membranes freely, mingles with the blood, combines partly with the carbon and hydrogen of that fluid, and generates carbonic acid and water, which are thrown off with the expired air, whilst the remainder combines with the organic particles of the blood, forming new compounds, of which the acetic and lactic acids are two; these unite with the carbonated alkaline salts of the blood, and set free the carbonic acid, so that it can be thrown off by the lungs. The acetate of soda, thus formed during the passage of the blood through the lungs, is deprived of its acetic acid by the several secretions, especially by those of the skin and kidneys, and the soda again combines with the carbonic acid, which, during the circulation of the blood through the body, is formed by the decomposition of its organic elements. Carbonate of soda is thus regenerated, and conveyed to the lungs, to be again decomposed by the fresh formation of acids in those organs.

Almost the same view is entertained by MM. Dumas and Boussingault, and it is esteemed by Professor Graham<sup>c</sup> to have a high degree of probability. Another view, in many respects similar, is held by Professor Arnold.<sup>d</sup> As it is more than probable, he remarks, that the carbonic acid occurs in the venous blood, united with some substance from which it is separated with greater or less rapidity by the contact of the atmospheric air; and as, further, the carbonate of the protoxide of iron greedily withdraws oxygen from the atmosphere, at the same time parting with its carbonic acid and becoming changed into a peroxide, it may reasonably be supposed, that the carbonic acid of the venous blood is united with the iron of the red

<sup>a</sup> Tiedemann und Treviranus, *Zeitschrift für Physiologie*, B. v. H. i.

<sup>b</sup> Schweigger's *Journal für Chemie*, u. s. w., lxi. 105.

<sup>c</sup> *Elements of Chemistry*, Amer. edit., by Dr. Bridges, p. 687, Philad., 1843.

<sup>d</sup> *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, Zurich, 1836-7; noticed in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Oct., 1839, p. 481. See, on this subject, Dr. J. Davy, *Researches, Physiological and Anatomical*, in Duglison's *Amer. Med. Lib. edit.*, p. 80, Philad., 1840.

colouring matter, and that it is set free during the act of respiration, by the reciprocal action of the blood and air. The protoxide, at the same time, by absorption of oxygen, becomes a peroxide, which, during the circulation of the blood through the capillaries, again parts with its oxygen. Carbon is at the same time eliminated from the blood, and unites with the liberated oxygen to form carbonic acid, which is thrown out by the lungs, whilst oxygen is again absorbed. This is the view embraced by Liebig,<sup>a</sup> who has affirmed, that the amount of iron present in the blood, if in the state of protoxide, is sufficient to furnish the means of transporting twice as much carbonic acid as can possibly be formed by the oxygen absorbed in the lungs.

Chaussier and Adelon,<sup>b</sup> again, regard the whole process of hæmatosis to be essentially *organic* and *vital*. They think, that an action of selection and elaboration is exerted both as regards the reception of the oxygen and the elimination of the carbonic acid. But their arguments on this point are unsatisfactory, and are negatived by the facility with which oxygen can be imbibed, and with which carbonic acid transudes through animal membranes. In their view, the whole process is effected in the lungs, as soon as the air comes in contact with the vessels containing the venous blood. The imbibition of oxygen they look upon as a case of ordinary absorption; the transudation of carbonic acid as one of exhalation; both of which they conceive to be, in all cases, *vital* actions, and not to be likened to any physical or chemical operation.

Admitting, then, that the oxygen and a portion of nitrogen absolutely enter the pulmonary vessels, of which we appear to have direct proof, are they, it has been asked, separated from the air in the air-cells, and then absorbed; or does the air enter undecomposed into the vessels, and then furnish the proportion of each of its constituents necessary for the wants of the system, the excess being rejected? Could it be shown that such a decomposition is actually effected at the point of contact between the pulmonary vessels and the air in the lungs, it would seem, at first, to prove the notion of Ellis,<sup>c</sup> and of Chaussier and Adelon, that an action of selection, or of vitality, is exerted; but the knowledge we have attained concerning the transmission of gases through animal membranes, would suggest another explanation. The rate of transmission of carbonic acid is greater than that of oxygen; and that of oxygen greater than that of azote (see vol. i., p. 50). We can hence understand, that more oxygen than azote may pass through the coats of the pulmonary blood-vessels, and can comprehend the facility with which the carbonic acid, formed in the course of the circulation, may permeate the same vessels, and mix with the air in the lungs. Sir Humphry Davy is of opinion, that the whole of the air is absorbed, and that the surplus quantity of each of the constituents is subsequently discharged. In favour of this view,

<sup>a</sup> *Animal Chemistry*, Webster's Amer. edit., p. 261, Cambridge, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. cit. iii. 254.

<sup>c</sup> *An Enquiry into the Changes induced on Atmospheric Air, &c.*, Edinb., 1807; and *Further Enquiries*, Edinb., 1816.

he remarks that air has the power of acting upon the blood through a stratum of serum, and he thinks that the undecomposed air must be absorbed before it can arrive at the blood in the vessels. It is probable, however, from the different penetrating powers of the gases—oxygen and azote—which compose it, that the proportion of those constituents cannot be the same in the interior as at the exterior of the pulmonary vessels. Muller,<sup>a</sup> however, accords with Davy, and supposes that the air, on entering the lungs, is decomposed in consequence of the affinity of the oxygen for the red particles of the blood; carbonic acid being formed, which is exhaled in the gaseous form, along with the greater part of the azote.

It has been remarked, that when oxygen is applied to venous blood, the latter assumes a florid colour. On what part of the blood, then, does the oxygen act? The general belief is, upon the red globules. Facts, hereafter stated in the description of venous blood, have shown, that these globules appear to consist of a colourless nucleus, surrounded by a coloured envelope; that both of these are devoid of colour, whilst they exist as chyle and lymph; but that, in the lungs, the contact of air changes the envelope to a florid red. Some, indeed, have believed, that both the envelope and its colour are added in the lungs. The coloration of the blood, consequently, seems to be effected in the lungs; but whether this change be of any importance in hæmatisis, is doubtful. Several tissues of the body are not supplied with red blood: in many animals, the red colour does not exist; and, in all, it can perhaps only be esteemed an evidence, that the other important changes have been accomplished in the lungs. Of late, the opinion has been revived, that the oxygen of the air acts upon the iron, which Engelhart and Rose<sup>b</sup> had detected in the colouring matter, but how we are not instructed. It has been asserted, that if the iron be separated, the rest of the colouring matter, which is of a venous red colour, loses the property of becoming scarlet by the contact of oxygen; but this, again, has been denied.

A view of arterialization has been advanced by Dr. Stevens.<sup>c</sup> According to him, the colouring matter of the blood is naturally very dark; is rendered still darker by acids, and acquires a florid hue from the addition of chloride of sodium, and from the neutral salts of the alkalies generally. The colour of arterial blood is ascribed by him to hæmatosis reddened by the salts contained in the serum; the characters of venous blood to the presumed presence of carbonic acid, which, like other acids, darkens hæmatosis; and the conversion of venous into arterial blood to the influence of the saline matter in the serum being restored by the separation of carbonic acid. If we take a firm clot of venous blood, cut off a thin slice, and soak it for

<sup>a</sup> Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 334, Lond., 1838; see, also, Magnus, in *Annales de Chimie et de Physique*, Nov., 1837.

<sup>b</sup> *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal*, for Jan. 1827.

<sup>c</sup> *Observations on the Healthy and Diseased properties of the Blood*, Lond. 1832; and *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, for 1834-5, p. 334. See, also, Dr. Robert E. Rogers, in *Amer. Journal of the Med. Sciences*, p. 282, Aug. 1836; and Mr. Ancell, *Lectures on the Physiology and Pathology of the Blood*, Feb. 1, 1840, p. 686.

an hour or two in repeatedly renewed portions of distilled water; in proportion as the serum is washed away, the colour of the clot deepens, and, when scarcely any serum remains, the colour, by reflected light, is quite black. In this state, it may be exposed to the atmosphere, or a current of air may be blown upon it without any change of tint whatever; whence it would follow, that when a clot of venous blood, moistened with serum, is made florid by the air, the presence of serum is essential to the phenomenon. The serum is believed, by Dr. Stevens, to contribute to this change by means of its saline matter; for when a dark clot of blood, which oxygen fails to redden, is immersed in a pure solution of salt, it quickly acquires the crimson tint of arterial blood, and loses it again when the salt is abstracted by soaking in distilled water. The facts, detailed by Dr. Stevens, were confirmed by Mr. Prater,<sup>a</sup> and by Dr. Turner,<sup>b</sup> of the London University. The latter gentleman, assisted by Professor Quain, of the same institution, performed the following satisfactory experiment. He collected some perfectly florid blood from the femoral artery of a dog; and on the following day, when a firm coagulum had formed, several thin slices were cut from the clot with a sharp penknife, and the serum was removed from them by distilled water, which had just before been briskly boiled, and allowed to cool in a well-corked bottle. The water was gently poured on these slices, so that while the serum was dissolved, as little as possible of the colouring matter should be lost. After the water had been poured off, and renewed four or five times, occupying in all about an hour, the moist slices were placed in a saucer at the side of the original clot, and both portions were shown to several medical friends, all of whom unhesitatingly pronounced the unwashed clot to have the perfect appearance of arterial blood, and the washed slices to be as perfectly venous. On restoring one of the slices to the serum, it shortly recovered its florid colour; and another slice, placed in a solution of bicarbonate of soda, instantly acquired a similar tint;—yet, as we have seen, the carbonate of soda is considered by Messrs. Gmelin, Tiedemann, and Mitscherlich, to exist in venous or black blood!

In brightening, in this way, a dark clot by a solution of salt or a bicarbonate, Dr. Turner found the colour to be often still more florid than that of arterial blood; but the colours were exactly alike when the salt was duly diluted. Dr. Turner remarks, that he is at a loss to draw any other inference from this experiment, than that the florid colour of arterial blood is not due to oxygen, but, as Dr. Stevens affirms, to the saline matter of the serum. The arterial blood, which was used, had been duly oxygenized within the body of the animal, and should not in that state have lost its tint by the mere removal of its serum; and he adds, the change from venous to arterial blood appears, contrary to the received doctrine, to consist of two parts essentially distinct; one is a chemical change, essential to life, accompanied by the absorption of oxygen, and the evolution of carbonic

<sup>a</sup> *Experm. Inquiries in Chemical Physiology*, part I., on the Blood, Lond. 1832.

<sup>b</sup> *Elements of Chemistry*, 5th edit. by F. Bache, p. 609. Philad. 1835.

acid; the other depends on the saline matter of the blood, which gives a florid tint to the colouring matter after it has been modified by the action of oxygen. "Such," says Dr. Turner, "appears to be a fair inference from the facts above stated; but being drawn from very limited observations, it is offered with diffidence, and requires to be confirmed or modified by future researches." But we are perhaps scarcely justified in inferring from the experiments of Stevens, Turner, and others, more than the fact, that a florid tint is communicated to blood by sea-salt, and by the neutral salts of the alkalies in general, and indeed by admixture with sugars; whilst acids render it still darker. The precise changes that occur during the arterialization of the blood in the lungs are still unknown; and if we rely on the recent experiments of Gmelin, Tiedemann, and Mitscherlich, venous blood cannot owe its colour to free carbonic acid, because none is to be met with in it; whilst the presence of the carbonates of alkalies ought to communicate the florid hue to it.

Since Dr. Stevens first published his opinions, the subject has been farther investigated by Dr. William Gregory, and by Mr. Irvine. They introduced portions of clot, freed by washing from serum, into vessels containing pure hydrogen, nitrogen, and carbonic acid, placed over mercury. As soon as the strong saline solution came in contact with them, the colour of the clot, in all the true gases, changed from black to bright red, and the same change was found to take place in the Torricellian vacuum. On repeating these experiments with the serum of the blood, and a solution of salt in water of equal strength with the serum, no change took place until atmospheric air, or oxygen gas, was admitted. It therefore appears—as properly inferred by the late Mr. Egerton A. Jennings, from whom we have an interesting "Report on the Chemistry of the Blood as Illustrative of Pathology,"—that though saline matter may be necessary to effect the change of colour from that of venous to that of arterial blood, still, with so dilute a saline solution, as that which exists in serum, the presence of oxygen is likewise necessary. Dr. Davy<sup>a</sup> dissents, however, from those conclusions, and is disposed to infer, from all the facts with which he is acquainted, that the colour of the blood, whether venous or arterial,—that is, dark or florid,—is independent of the saline matter in the serum, considered in relation to agency; and that, according to the commonly received view, oxygen is the cause of the bright hue of the arterial fluid, and its consumption and conversion into carbonic acid, the cause of the dark hue of the venous—the saline matter being negative in regard to colour, and its chief use being, in his opinion, "to preserve the red globules from injury, prevent the solution of their colouring matter, retain their forms unchanged, and to bear them in their course through the circulation."

Of late, an idea has been entertained, that the change from arterial to venous blood, and conversely, as regards colour, is dependent in a

<sup>a</sup> Transactions of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, vol. iii. Worcester and London, 1835.

<sup>b</sup> Researches, Physiological and Anatomical, Dugliesson's Amer. Med. Lib. edit. p. 96. Philad. 1840.



great measure on a physical difference in the surface of the blood corpuscles; and is therefore owing rather to physical than to chemical changes in the corpuscles. Such is the opinion of Scherer, Nasse, Mulder, and others,<sup>a</sup> which is of course opposed to that of Liebig, already stated. Mulder explains the difference between the colour of arterial and venous blood as follows. Two oxides of protein are formed in the act of respiration, which have a strong plastic tendency, and solidify around each corpuscle, making the capsule thicker, and better qualified to reflect light. Each corpuscle of the arterialized blood is then, in reality, invested with a complete envelope of buffy coat, which gradually contracts, and speedily forms the cupped or biconcave surfaces, which are favourable to the reflection of light. On reaching the capillaries, the coating of the oxides of protein is removed, and the corpuscles, losing their opaque investment, and their cupped form, no longer reflect light, and the blood assumes the venous tint.<sup>b</sup> Dr. G. O. Rees,<sup>c</sup> however, considers this explanation to be entirely hypothetical and erroneous. He rejects the idea of a layer of plastic oxy-protein being deposited on the blood corpuscles during respiration, and instead of considering the hæmatosin as undergoing no change, and maintaining the same condition in arterial and venous blood, he looks upon it as being the cause of the change of colour in the blood by virtue of some chemical alteration, which takes place in it, but whose nature—if there be any such alteration—remains a mystery.

The slight diminution, if it exist, in the specific gravity of arterial blood has been considered, but we know not on what grounds, to depend on the transpiration, which takes place into the air-cells, and which was formerly thought to be owing to the combustion of oxygen and hydrogen. This will engage us in another place, as well as the changes produced in its capacity for heat, on which several ingenious speculations have been founded, to account for ANIMAL TEMPERATURE. The other changes are at present inexplicable, and can only be understood hereafter by minute chemical analysis, and by an accurate comparison of the two kinds of blood,—venous and arterial. This has been carefully done by Simon, who infers, from his analyses, that arterial blood contains less solid residue generally than venous blood; less fat, less albumen, less hæmatin, less extractive matter, and less salts. The blood corpuscles of arterial blood contain less colouring matter than those of venous blood.<sup>b</sup>

It is manifest, from the preceding detail, that our knowledge regarding the precise changes effected upon the air and the blood by respiration is by no means definite. We may, however, consider the following points established. In the first place:—the air loses a part

<sup>a</sup> For an abstract of these views, see Mr. Paget, *Report on Anatomy and Physiology*, in *Brit. and For. Med. Review*, Jan. 1845, p. 253; and Dr. G. Bird, in *Lond. Med. Gazette*, Dec. 27, 1844.

<sup>b</sup> Mulder, *Versuch einer Allgemeinen Physiologischen Chemie*, cited by Mr. Day in Simon, *Animal Chemistry*, Sydenham edit. p. 193. Lond. 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Ranking's Abstract, i. 250, Amer. edit. New York, 1845.

<sup>d</sup> For various analyses of the two kinds of blood, see Simon, *op. cit.* p. 194.

of its oxygen, and of its azote; but this loss varies according to numerous circumstances. 2dly. It is found to have acquired carbonic acid, the quantity of which is also variable. 3dly. The bulk of the air is diminished; but the extent of this likewise differs. 4thly. The blood, when it attains the left side of the heart, has a more florid colour. 5thly. This change appears to be caused by the contact of oxygen. 6thly. The blood in the lungs gets rid of a quantity of carbonic acid. 7thly. The oxygen taken in is more than necessary for the carbonic acid formed. 8thly. The constituents of the air pass directly through the coats of the pulmonary vessels, and certain portions of each are discharged or retained, according to circumstances. 9thly. A quantity of aqueous vapour is discharged from the lungs: the expired air is indeed saturated with it. 10thly. The expired air has always a temperature at or near  $99^{\circ}$ : and, lastly, it would appear, from the facts stated elsewhere, that the matter of the red corpuscles is not the only constituent of the blood which undergoes a change in the respiratory process; and that the fibrin of venous blood most nearly resembles albumen, whilst that of arterial blood contains more oxygen and is more highly animalized.

#### c. *Cutaneous Respiration, &c.*

A question, again, has arisen, whether any absorption and exhalation of air, and conversion of blood from venous to arterial, takes place in any other part of the body than the lungs. The reasons, urged in favour of the affirmative of this question, are;—that, in the lower classes of animals, the skin is manifestly the organ for the reception of air; that the mucous membrane of the lungs evidently absorbs air, and is simply a prolongation of the skin, resembling it in texture; and lastly, that when a limited quantity of air has been placed in contact with the skin of a living animal, it has been absorbed, and found to have experienced the same changes as are effected in the lungs. Mr. Cruikshank<sup>a</sup> and Mr. Abernethy<sup>b</sup> analyzed air, in which the hand or foot had been confined for a time, and detected in it a considerable quantity of carbonic acid. Jurine, having placed his arm in a cylinder hermetically closed, found, after it had remained there two hours, that oxygen had disappeared, and that 0·08 of carbonic acid had been formed. These results were confirmed by Gattoni;<sup>c</sup> and from recent experiments by Professor Scharling, referred to before, the amount of carbon exhaled by the skin in the twenty-four hours, has been estimated at two ounces;<sup>d</sup> but this is probably beyond the real amount. On the other hand, Drs. Priestley,<sup>e</sup> Klapp,<sup>f</sup> and Gordon,<sup>g</sup> could never perceive the least change in the air under such circumstances. Perhaps in these, as in

<sup>a</sup> Experiments on the Insensible Perspiration, &c., Lond. 1795. See, also, Edwards, *Sur l'Influence des Agens Physiques*, p. 12; or Hodgkin and Fisher's translation.

<sup>b</sup> *Surgical and Physiological Essays*, part ii. p. 115. Lond. 1793.

<sup>c</sup> *Dict. des Sciences Médicales*, art. *Peau*.

<sup>d</sup> Carpenter, *Principles of Human Physiology*, 2d edit. p. 469. Lond. 1844.

<sup>e</sup> Experiments and Observations on different kinds of Air, ii. 193, and v. 100. Lond. 1774.

<sup>f</sup> *Inaugural Essay on Cuticular Absorption*, p. 24. Philad. 1805.

<sup>g</sup> *Ellis's Inquiry into the Changes of Atmospheric Air*, &c., p. 355, Edinb. 1837. See, also, Madden's *Experimental Inquiry on Cutaneous Absorption*, p. 130. Lond. 1836.

all cases where the respectability of testimony is equal, the positive should be adopted rather than the negative. It is probable, however, that absorption is effected with difficulty; and that the cuticle, as we have elsewhere shown, is placed on the outer surface to obviate the bad effects which would be induced by heterogeneous gaseous, miasmatic, or other absorption. We have seen that some of the deleterious gases, as sulphuretted hydrogen, are most powerfully penetrant, and, if they could enter the surface of the body with readiness, unfortunate results might supervene. In those parts where the cuticle is extremely delicate, as in the lips, some conversion of the venous blood into arterial may be effected, and this may be a great cause of their florid colour. According to this view, the arterialization of the blood occurs in the lungs chiefly, owing to their formation being so admirably adapted to the purpose, and it is not effected in other parts, because their arrangement is unfavourable for such result.<sup>a</sup>

*d. Effects of the Section of certain Nerves on Respiration.*

It remains for us to inquire into the effect produced on the lungs by the cerebral nerves distributed to them,—or rather, into what is the effect of depriving the respiratory organs of their nervous influence from the brain. The only cerebral or encephalic nerves, distributed to them, are the pneumogastric or eighth pair of Willis, which, we have seen, are sent, as their name imports, to both the lungs and the stomach. The section of these nerves early suggested itself to physiologists, but it is only in recent times that the phenomena resulting from it have been clearly comprehended. The operation appears to have been performed as long ago as the time of Rufus of Ephesus, and was afterwards repeated by Chirac, Bohn, Duverney, Vieussens, Schröder, Valsalva, Morgagni, Haller, and numerous other distinguished physiologists.<sup>b</sup> It is chiefly, however, in very recent times, and especially by the labours of Dupuytren, Dumas, De Blainville, Provençal, Legallois, Magendie, Breschet, Hastings, Broughton, Brodie, Wilson Philip, and John Reid, that the precise effects upon the respiratory and digestive functions have been appreciated.

When the nerves are divided in a living animal, on both sides at once, the animal dies more or less promptly; at times immediately after their division, but sometimes it lives for a few days;—Magendie says never beyond three or four. The effects produced upon the voice, by their division above the origin of the recurrenents, have been referred to under another head (vol. i., p. 423). Such division, however, does not simply implicate the larynx, but necessarily affects the lungs, as well as the stomach. As regards the larynx, precisely the same results, according to Magendie,<sup>c</sup> are produced by dividing the trunk of the pneumogastric above the origin of the recurrenents, as by the division of the recurrenents themselves: the muscles, whose function it is to dilate the glottis, are paralysed; and consequently, during inspiration, no dilatation takes place; whilst the constrictors, which

<sup>a</sup> Müller's Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 334. Lond. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Haller. Element. Physiolog.æ.

<sup>c</sup> Précis, &c. 2de edit. ii. 355.

receive their nerves from the superior laryngeal, preserve all their action, and close the glottis, at times so completely, that the animal dies immediately from suffocation. But if the division of these nerves should not induce instant death in this manner, a series of symptoms follows, considerably alike in all cases, which go on until the death of the animal. These phenomena are the following:—respiration is, at first, difficult; the inspiratory movements are more extensive and rapid, and the animal's attention appears to be particularly directed to them; the locomotive movements are less frequent, and evidently fatigue; frequently, the animal remains entirely at rest; the formation of arterial blood is not prevented at first, but soon, on the second day for instance, the difficulty of breathing augments, and the inspiratory efforts become gradually greater. The arterial blood has now no longer the vermilion hue which is proper to it. It is darker than it ought to be. Its temperature falls. Respiration requires the exertion of all the respiratory powers. At length, the arterial blood is almost like the venous, and the arteries contain but little of it; the body gradually becomes cold, and the animal dies. On opening the chest, the air-cells, the bronchi, and frequently even the trachea, are found filled by a frothy fluid, which is sometimes bloody; the substance of the lung is tumid; the divisions and even the trunk of the pulmonary artery are greatly distended with dark, almost black, blood; and extensive effusions of serum and even of blood are found in the parenchyma of the lungs. Experiments have, likewise, shown that, in proportion as these symptoms appeared, the animals consumed less and less oxygen, and gave off a progressively diminishing amount of carbonic acid.\*

From the phenomena that occur after the section of these nerves on both sides, it would seem to follow, that the first effect is exerted upon the tissue of the lungs, which, being deprived of the nervous influence they receive from the brain, are no longer capable of exerting their ordinary elasticity or muscularity whichever it may be. Respiration, consequently, becomes difficult; the blood no longer circulates freely through the capillary vessels of the lungs; the consequence of this is, that transudation of its serous portions, and occasionally effusion of blood, owing to rupture of small vessels, takes place, filling the air-cells more or less; until, ultimately, all communication is prevented between the inspired air and the blood-vessels of the lungs, and the conversion of the venous into arterial blood is completely precluded. Death is then the inevitable and immediate consequence. The division of the nerve on one side affects merely the lung of the corresponding side. Life can be continued by the action of one lung only: it is, indeed, a matter of astonishment how long some individuals have lived when the lungs have been almost wholly obstructed. Every morbid anatomist has had repeated opportunities for observing, that, in cases of pulmonary consumption, for a length of time prior to dissolution, the process of respiration must have been wholly carried on by a very small portion of lung.

From his experiments on this subject, Sir Astley Cooper infers, that

\* See Sir Astley Cooper, in *Guy's Hospital Reports*, part i. 468, Lond. 1836; also Dr. J. Reid, *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ.* p. 163, for Jan. 1836.

the pneumogastric nerve is most important;—1st, in assisting in the support of the function of the lungs, by contributing to the change of venous into arterial blood; 2dly, in being necessary to the act of swallowing; and 3dly, in being very essential to the digestive process; whilst Dr. John Reid is of opinion, that the pulmonary branches seem to be the nerves, chiefly concerned in transmitting to the medulla oblongata the impressions which excite respiratory movements, and are thus principally afferent nerves; but it is possible, he adds, that they contain motor filaments also.\*

The experiments of Dr. Wilson Philip<sup>b</sup> and others, moreover, show,—what has been more than once inculcated,—the great similarity between the nervous and galvanic fluids. When the state of dyspnœa was induced by the division of the pneumogastric nerves, the galvanic current was passed from one divided extremity to the other, and, in numerous cases, the dyspnœa entirely ceased. The results of these experiments induced him to try the effect of galvanism in cases of asthma. By transmitting its influence from the nape of the neck to the pit of the stomach, he gave decided relief in every one of twenty-two cases, four of which occurred in private practice, and eighteen in the Worcester Infirmary.

Sir A. Cooper<sup>c</sup> instituted similar experiments on the phrenic nerves. As soon as these were tied, the most determined asthma was produced; breathing went on by means of the intercostal muscles; the chest was elevated to the utmost by them; and in expiration the chest was as remarkably drawn in. The animals did not live an hour; but they did not die suddenly, as they do from pressure on the carotid and vertebral arteries. The lungs appeared healthy, but the chest contained more than its natural exhalation. He also tied the great sympathetic; but little effect was produced; the animal's heart appeared to beat more quickly and feebly than usual. The animal was kept seven days, and one nerve was ulcerated through, and the other nearly so at the situation of the ligatures. No particular alteration of any organ was observed, on examination. Lastly, Sir Astley tied all three nerves on each side, the pneumogastric, phrenic, and great sympathetic: the animal lived little more than a quarter of an hour, and died of dyspnœa.

From these experiments, he infers, that the sudden death, which he found in his experiments to take place from pressure on the sides of the neck, cannot be attributed to any injury of the nerves, but to an impediment to the due supply of blood to a great centre of nervous influence.

The centre of the respiratory movements is now considered to be the upper part of the medulla oblongata. Into it the pneumogastric nerves, which appear to be the chief excitors of respiration, may be traced, and from it the different motor or efferent nerves, which Sir Charles Bell has grouped together in his respiratory system, proceed

\* Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., April, 1839.

<sup>b</sup> Experimental Inquiry into the Laws of the Vital Functions, &c., 2d edit., p. 223, Lond., 1818; also, Journal of Science and Arts, viii. 72; and art. Galvanism, in Ure's Diet. of Chemistry, 2d edit., Lond., 1823.

<sup>c</sup> Op. cit., p. 475.

either directly or indirectly. Of these, the most important is the phrenic.\*

### e. Respiration of Animals.

In concluding the subject of respiration, we may briefly advert to the different modes in which the process is effected in the classes of animals, and especially in birds, the respiratory organs of which constitute one of the most singular structures of the animal economy. The lungs themselves,—as in the marginal figure of the lungs, &c., of the ostrich, Fig. 200,)—are comparatively small, and are adherent to the chest,—where they seem to be placed in the intervals of the ribs.

Fig. 200.



Thoracic and Abdominal Viscera of the Ostrich.

a. Heart, lodged in one great air-cell. b. The stomach. c. The intestines, surrounded by large air-cells. d. The trachea dividing into bronchi. e, e. The lungs. 1, 2, 3, f, f. Other great air-cells, communicating with other cells and with the lungs. g, g. The openings by which such communication is made.

They are covered by the pleura only on their under, surface, so that they are, in fact, on the outside of the cavity of the chest. A great part of the thorax, as well as of the abdomen, is occupied by membranous air-cells, into which the lungs open by considerable apertures. Besides these cells, a considerable portion of the skeleton forms receptacles for air, in many birds; and if we break a long bone of a bird of flight, and blow into it, the body of the bird being immersed in water, bubbles of air will escape from the bill. The object, of course, of all this is to render the body light, and thus to facilitate its motions. Hence the largest and most numerous bony cells are found in such birds as have the highest and most rapid flight, as the eagle. The barrels of the quills are likewise hollow, and can be filled with air, or emptied at pleasure. In addition to the uses

just mentioned, these receptacles of air diminish the necessity of breathing so frequently in the rapid and long-continued motions of several birds, and in the great vocal exertions of singing birds.

In fishes, in the place of lungs we find *branchiæ* or *gills*, which are placed behind the head on each side, and have a movable *gill-cover*. By the throat, which is connected with these organs the water is conveyed to the gills, and distributed through them: by this means, the air, contained in the water, which, according to Biot, Von Humboldt<sup>b</sup>

\* Dr. Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, p. 138, Lond., 1842.

<sup>b</sup> *Mémoires de la Société d'Arcueil*, i. 252, and ii. 400; *Annals of Philosophy*, v. 40; and Richerand's *Elémens de Physiologie*, 13ème édit par M. Bérard, aîné, p. 141, Bruxelles, 1837.

and Provençal, Configliachi, and Thomson,<sup>a</sup> is richer in oxygen than that of the atmosphere, having from 29 to 32 parts in the 100, instead of 20 or 21, comes in contact with the blood circulating through the gills. The water is afterwards discharged through the branchial openings,—*aperturæ branchiales*,—and, consequently, they do not expire along the same channel as they inspire.

Lastly, in the insect tribe,—in the white-blooded animal,—we find the function of respiration effected altogether by the surface of the body; at least, so far as regards the reception of air, which passes into the body through apertures termed *stigmata*, the external terminations of *tracheæ* or air-tubes, whose office it is to convey the air to different parts of the system.

In all these cases, we find precisely the same changes effected upon the inspired air, and especially, that oxygen and azote have disappeared, and that carbonic acid is contained in nearly equal bulk with the azote in the residuary air.<sup>b</sup>

## CHAPTER IV.

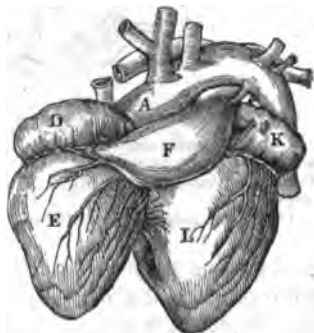
### CIRCULATION.

THE next function to be considered is that by which the products of the various absorptions, converted into arterial blood in the lungs, are distributed to every part of the body, —a function of the most important character to the physiologist, and the pathologist, and without a knowledge of which it is impossible for the latter to comprehend the doctrine of disease.

Assuming the heart to be the great organ of the function, the circulatory fluid must set out from it, be distributed through the lungs, undergo aeration there, be sent to the opposite side of the heart, whence it is distributed to every part of the system by efferent vessels, and be thence returned by the veins or afferent vessels to the right side, from which it set out,—thus performing a complete circuit.

The lower class of animals differ essentially, as we shall find hereafter, in their organs of circulation; whilst in some, the apparatus appears to be confounded with the digestive; in others, the blood is propelled without any great central organ; and in others, again, the heart is but a single organ. In man,

Fig. 201.



Heart of the Dugong.

D. Right auricle. E. Right ventricle. K. Left auricle. L. Left ventricle. F. Pulmonary artery. A. Aorta.

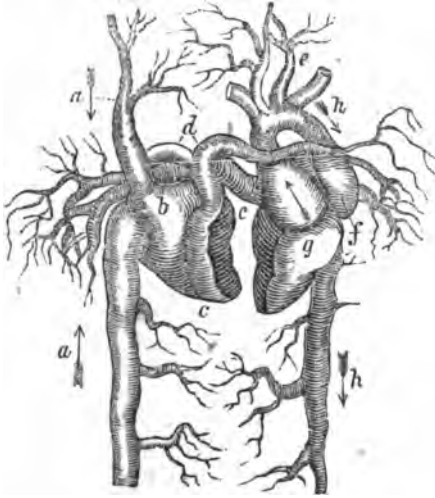
<sup>a</sup> Dr. Thomson found that 100 cubic inches of the water of the river Clyde contained 3.113 inches of air; and that the air contained 29 per cent. of oxygen. Edinb. New Philosoph. Journal, xxi. 370, Edinb. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Roget's Animal and Vegetable Physiology, ii. 221, Amer. edit.; and Tiedemann, Traité Complet de Physiologie de l'Homme, par Jourdan, p. 302, Paris, 1831.

and in the upper classes of animals, the heart is *double*;—consisting of two sides, or really of two hearts, separated from each other by a septum. In the dugong, the two ventricles are almost entirely detached from each other.<sup>a</sup>

As all the blood of the body has to be emptied into this central organ, and to be subsequently sent from it, and as its flow is continuous, two cavities are required in each heart,—the one to receive the blood, the other to propel it. This last contracts and dilates alter-

Fig. 202.



Right and Left Hearts separated.

a, a. Venæ cavae ascendens, and descendens. b. Right auricle. c, c. Right ventricle. d. Pulmonary artery. e. Pulmonary veins. f. Left auricle. g. Left ventricle. h, h. Aorta.

The arrows indicate the course of the blood.

The aorta arises from it. In Fig. 202, the two hearts are separated from each other, and shown to be distinct organs in the adult, although in the subject they seem to form but one. Between the two, after birth, there is not the slightest communication; and, consequently, all the blood, with the exception of that sent out by the coronary artery, and returned by the coronary vein, which has to attain the left side of the heart, must make the circuit through the lungs.

The whole of the vessels communicating with the right heart contain venous blood; those of the left side arterial blood.

If we consider the heart to be the centre, two circulations are accomplished before the blood, setting out from one side of the heart, performs the whole circuit. One of these consists in the transmission of the blood from the right side of the heart, through the lungs, to the left; the other, in its transmission from the left side, along the arte-

nately. The cavity or chamber of each heart, which receives the blood, is called *auricle*, and the vessels that transport it thither are the *veins*; the cavity by which the blood is projected forwards is called *ventricle*, and the vessels, along which the blood is sent, are the *arteries*. One of these hearts is entirely appropriated to the circulation of venous blood, and hence has been called the *venous heart*,—also the *right* or *anterior* heart, from its situation,—and the *pulmonary* from the pulmonary artery arising from it. The other is for the circulation of arterial blood, and is hence called the *arterial heart*, also the *left* or *posterior*, from its situation, and the *aortic heart*, because the

<sup>a</sup> Roget, op. cit., ii. 200, Philad. 1836.



ries, and by means of the veins, back to the right side. The former of these is called the *lesser* or *pulmonic*, the latter the *greater* or *systemic* circulation. The organs, by which these are effected, will require a more detailed examination.

### 1. ANATOMY OF THE CIRCULATORY ORGANS.

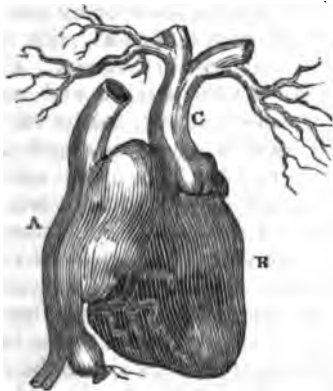
The circulatory apparatus is composed of the organs by which the blood is put in motion, and along which it passes during its circuit.

#### a. Heart.

To simplify the consideration of the subject, we shall consider the heart double; and that each system of circulation is composed of a *heart*; of *arteries*, through which the blood is sent from the heart; and of *veins*, by which the blood is returned to it. At the minute termination of each of these is the *capillary system*. We shall first describe the central organ as forming two distinct hearts; and afterwards the two united.

The *pulmonic*, *right* or *anterior heart*, called also the *heart of black blood*, is composed of an auricle and a ventricle. The *auricle*, so termed from some resemblance to an ear, is situate at the base of the organ, and receives the whole of the blood returning from various parts of the body by three veins;—the two *venæ cavæ*, and the *coro-*

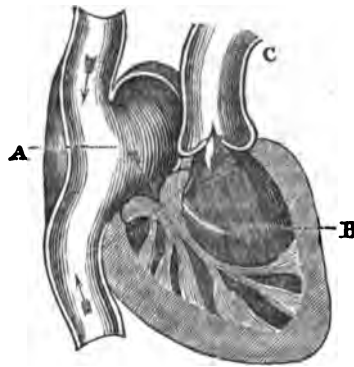
Fig. 203.



*Pulmonic Heart.*

A. Right auricle with its *venæ cavæ*.  
B. Right ventricle. C. Pulmonary artery.

Fig. 204.



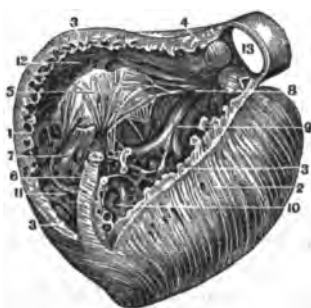
*Section of the Pulmonic Heart.*

A. Right auricle. B. Right ventricle. C. Pulmonary artery.

nary. The *vena cava descendens* terminates in the auricle in the direction of the aperture by which the auricle communicates with the ventricle. The *vena cava ascendens*, the termination of which is directed more backwards, has the remains of a valve which is much larger in the *fœtus*, called the *valve of Eustachius*. The third vein is the *cardiac* or *coronary*; it returns the blood from the heart which has been carried thither by the coronary artery. In the septum between the right and left auricle, there is a superficial depression,

about the size of the point of the finger, which is the vestige of the foramen ovale,—an important part of the circulatory apparatus of the fetus. The opening, through which the auricle projects its blood into the ventricle, is situate downwards and forwards, as seen in Fig. 204. The inner surface of the *proper auricle*, or that which more particularly resembles the ear of a quadruped,—the remainder

Fig. 205.



View of Interior of Right Ventricle.  
The rest of it has been removed, but the Left Ventricle is entire.

1. Section of parietes of right ventricle. 2. Left ventricle. 3. Thickness of parietes of right ventricle. 4. Thickness at commencement of pulmonary artery. 5. Anterior fold of tricuspid valve. 6. A portion of right ventricle untouched. 7, 8. Columnæ carneæ of right ventricle with their chordæ tendineæ. 9. Right side of ventricular septum. 10, 11. Cavities between bases of columnæ carneæ. 12. Depression leading to pulmonary artery. 13. Interior of pulmonary artery. Two of the sigmoid valves are seen; the third has been removed.

edge of the tricuspid valve, next the apex of the heart, small, round, *tendinous cords*, called *chordæ tendineæ*, are sent off, which are fixed, as represented in Fig. 205, to the extremities of a few strong *columnæ carneæ*.

Fig. 206.



Semilunar Valves closed.

body is attached to the middle of the margin of each valve; and, these, coming together, as at A, Fig. 206, when the valves are shut

being sometimes called the *sinus venosus* or *sinus venarum cavarum*,—is distinguished by having a number of *fleshy pillars* in it, which, from their supposed resemblance to the teeth of a comb, are called *musculi pectinati*. They are mere varieties, however, of the *columnæ carneæ* of the ventricles.

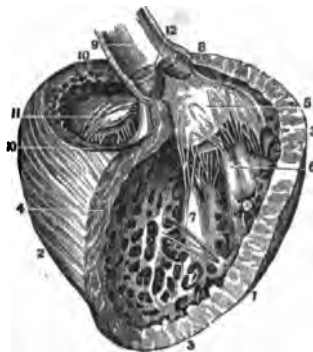
The right ventricle or *pulmonary ventricle* is situate in the anterior part of the heart; the base and apex corresponding to those of the heart. Its cavity is generally greater than that of the left side, and its parietes not so thick, owing to their merely having to force the blood through the lungs. It communicates with the auricle by the *auriculo-ventricular opening*—the *ostium venosum*; and the only other opening into it is that which communicates with the interior of the pulmonary artery. The opening, between the auricle and ventricle, is furnished with a tripartite valve, called *tricuspid* or *triglochin*; and the pulmonary artery has three others, called *sigmoid* or *semilunar*. From the whole

These tendinous cords are of such a length as to allow the valve to be laid against the sides of the ventricle, in the dilated state of that organ, and to admit of its being pushed back by the blood, until a nearly complete septum is formed during the contraction of the ventricle. The *semilunar* or *sigmoid valves* are three in number, situate around the artery. When these fall together, there must necessarily be a space left between them. To obviate the inconvenience, that would result from the existence of such a free space, a small granular

down, complete the diaphragm, and prevent any blood from passing back to the heart. These small bodies are termed, from their reputed discoverer, *corpuscula Arantii* and also *corpuscula Morgagni*; or, from their resemblance to the seed of the sesamum, *corpuscula sesamoides*. The valves, when shut, are concave towards the lungs, and convex towards the ventricle. Immediately above them the artery bulges out, forming three sacculi or sinuses, called *sinuses of Valsalva*. These are often said to be partly formed by the pressure of the blood upon the sides of the vessel. The structure is doubtless ordained, and is admirably adapted for a specific purpose, namely, to allow the free edges of the valves to be readily caught by the reflux blood, and thus to facilitate their closure. Within the right ventricle, and especially towards the apex of the heart, many strong eminences are seen, which are called *columnæ carneæ* (Fig. 205). These run in different directions, but the strongest of them longitudinally with respect to the ventricle. They are of various sizes, and form a beautifully reticulated texture. Their chief use probably is, to strengthen the ventricle and prevent it from being over-distended; in addition to which they may tend to mix the different products of absorption.

The *corporeal, left, aortic or systemic heart*,—called also the *heart of red blood*,—has likewise an auricle and a ventricle. The *left auricle* is considerably thicker and stronger but smaller than the right; and it is likewise divided into *sinus venosus* and *proper auricle*, which form a common cavity. The columns in the latter are like those of the right auricle, but less distinct. From the under part of the auricle, a circular passage, termed *ostium arteriosum* or auricular orifice, leads to the posterior part of the base of the cavity of the left ventricle. The left auricle receives the blood from the pulmonary veins. The *left or aortic ventricle* is situate at the posterior and left part of the heart. Its sides are three times thicker and stronger than those of the right ventricle, to permit the much greater force which it has to exert; for, whilst the right ventricle merely sends its blood to the lungs, the left ventricle transmits it to every part of the body. It is narrower and rounder, but considerably longer, than the right ventricle, and forms the apex of the heart. The internal surface of this ventricle has the same general appearance as the other, but differs from it in having its *columnæ carneæ* larger, more numerous, firmer, and

Fig. 207.



Three-Quarter-View of Left Ventricle after the removal of its Anterior Parietes.

1. Outer side of the left ventricle.
2. Outer side of the right ventricle.
3. Thickness of its outer parietes.
4. Thickness of a section near the side of the right ventricle.
5. The mitral valve.
- 6, 7. Two of the *columnæ carneæ* with their *chordæ tendinæ* attached to the valve.
8. Thickness of the ventricular parietes at the origin of the aorta.
9. Cavity of the aorta.
- 10, 10. Section of the superior surface of the right ventricle, showing the *ostium venosum* and tricuspid valve from above.
11. Tricuspid valve.
12. Semilunar valves of the aorta.

stronger. In the aperture of communication with the corresponding auricle, there is here, as in the opposite side of the heart, a ring or zone, from which a valve, essentially like the tricuspid, goes off. It is stronger, however, and divided into two principal portions only; the chordæ tendinæ are also stronger and more numerous. This valve has been termed *mitral*, from some supposed resemblance to a

Fig. 208.



View of the Mitral Valve—size of life.

The drawing shows its two folds, its chordæ tendinæ arising from the columnæ carnæ and those coming from the other columnæ of the ventricle. The lower part of the figure is the portion of the left ventricle from which the main columnæ arise; the upper portion is the left auriculo-ventricular septum around left ostium venosum.

bishop's mitre. At the fore and right side of the mitral valve, and behind the commencement of the pulmonary artery, a round opening exists, which is the mouth of the aorta. Here are three *semilunar valves*, with their *corpuscula Arantii*, exactly like those of the pulmonary artery, but a little stronger; and, on the outer side of the semilunar valves, are the *sinuses of Valsalva*, a little more prominent than those of the pulmonary artery.

The structure of the two hearts is the same. A serous membrane covers both, which is an extension of the inner membrane of the pericardium.

The substance of the heart is essentially muscular. The fibres run in different directions, longitudinally and transversely, but most of them obliquely. Many pass over the point, from one heart to the other, and all are so involved as to render it difficult to unravel them. The cavities are lined by a thin membrane, the *endocardium*, which differs somewhat in the two hearts;—being in one a prolongation of the inner coat of the aorta, and in the other of the venæ cavæ.

On this account, the inner coat of the left heart is but slightly extensible, more easily ruptured, and considerably disposed to ossify; that of the right heart, on the other hand, is very extensible, not readily ruptured, and but little liable to ossify. M. Deschamps<sup>a</sup> has described a membrane which is situate between the endocardium and the cellular tissue that lines the muscular structure at its inner surface, and belongs essentially to the elastic fibrous tissue. The tissue of the heart is supplied with blood by the *cardiac* or *coronary arteries*—the first division of the aorta; and their blood is conveyed back to the right auricle by the *coronary veins*. The nerves, which follow the ramifications of the coronary arteries, proceed chiefly from a plexus, formed by the pneumogastric nerves, and great sympathetic.

In both hearts, the auricles are much thinner and more capacious than the ventricles; but they are themselves much alike in structure and size. The observation, that the right ventricle is larger than the left, is as old as Hippocrates, and has been attempted to be accounted for in various ways. Some have ascribed it to original conformation;

<sup>a</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, No. 10, and Encyclographie des Sciences Médicales, Avril, 1840, p. 281.

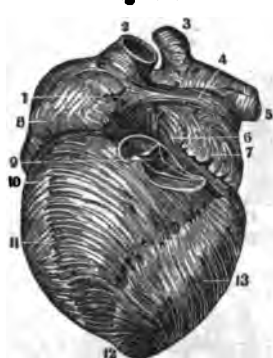
others to the blood being cooled in its passage through the lung, and therefore occupying a smaller space when it reaches the left side of the heart. Haller<sup>a</sup> and Meckel<sup>b</sup> assert, that it is dependent upon the kind of death;<sup>c</sup> that if the right ventricle be usually more capacious, it is owing to the lung being one of the organs that yields first, thus occasioning accumulation of blood in the right cavities of the heart; and they state that they succeeded, in their experiments, in rendering either one or the other of the ventricles more capacious, according as the cause of death arrested first the circulation in the lung or in the aorta; but the experiments of

Legallois,<sup>d</sup> and Seiler,<sup>e</sup> especially of the former, —with mercury poured into the cavities,—upon dogs, cats, Guinea pigs, rabbits, in the adult, the child, and the still-born fœtus, have shown that, except in the fœ-

tus, the right ventricle is more capacious, whether death has been produced by suffocation, in which the blood is accumulated in the right side of the heart, or by hemorrhage; and Legallois<sup>f</sup> thinks that the difference is owing to the left ventricle being more muscular, and, therefore, returning more upon itself.<sup>g</sup> The capacity of each of the ventricles in the full-sized heart has been estimated at about two fluid ounces; but by Valentin at more than double that amount.<sup>h</sup>

The two hearts, united together by a median septum, form, then, one organ, which is situate in the middle of the chest, (see Fig. 198.)

Fig. 209.



*Anterior View of External Muscular Layer of the Heart after removal of its Serous Coat, &c.*

1. Right auricle. 2. Descending vena cava. 3. Right anterior pulmonary vein. 4. Horizontal band of fibres passing across the base of the auricles. 5. Left anterior pulmonary vein. 6. Muscular fibres between auricles. 7. Fringed or ring-shaped bands of fibres at the extremity of left auricle. 8. Muscular fibres at the base of right auricle. 9. Section of pulmonary artery, showing semi-lunar valves. 10, 11. Anterior bis ventricular muscular fibres. 12, 13. Their continuation on to left ventricle.

Fig. 210.



*Posterior View of the same.*

1. Right auricle. 2. Descending vena cava. 3. Right posterior pulmonary vein. 4. Muscular fibres of left auricle. 5. Left posterior pulmonary vein. 6, 7. Arrangement of muscular fibres at the end of left auricle. 8. Orifice of great coronary vein. 9. Band of fibres between the two venæ cavae. 10. Orifice of the ascending vena cava; Eustachian valve is at the end of the line. 11, 12. Muscular fibres at the base of auricle. 13, 14. Muscular fibres in the ventricles.

<sup>a</sup> Element. Physiol., iv. 3, 3.

<sup>b</sup> Handbuch der Menschlichen Anatomie, Halle, 1817, s. 46; or the translation from the French version, by Dr. Doane, Philad. 1832.

<sup>c</sup> Clendinning, Report to the British Association, Lond. Med. Gaz. Nov. 13, 1840.

<sup>d</sup> Dict. des Sciences Médicales, v. 440.

<sup>e</sup> Art. Herz, in Anat. Physiol. Real Wörterb. iv. 32, Leipz. 1821.

<sup>f</sup> Œuvres, Paris, 1824.

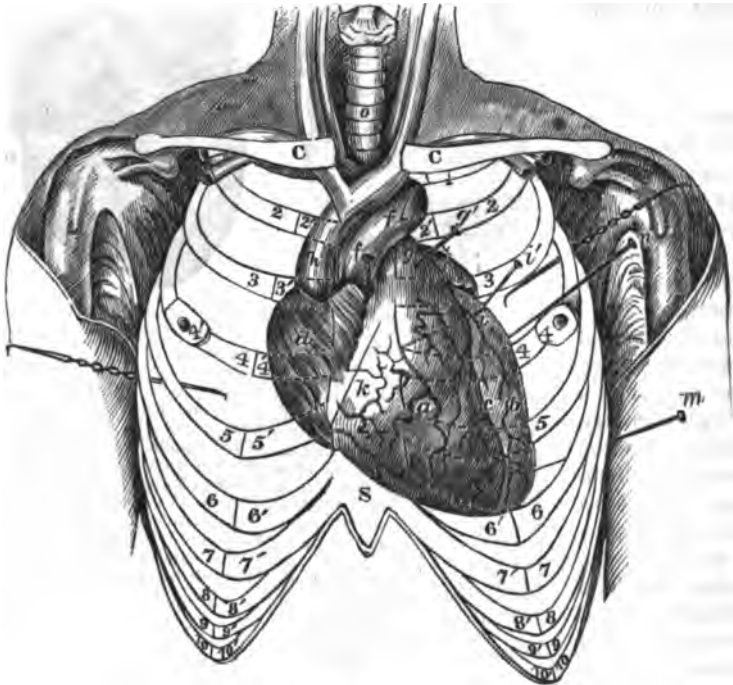
<sup>g</sup> Burdach, Physiologie, u. s. w., iv. 214.

<sup>h</sup> Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen, i. 415; cited by Mr. Paget, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev. Jan. 1845, p. 261.

between the lungs, and consequently in the most fixed part of the thorax. Figure 211 is modified from one carefully made from nature by Dr. Pennock.<sup>a</sup> It represents the normal position of the heart and great vessels.

According to Carus,<sup>b</sup> the weight of the heart compared with that of the body is as 1 to 160. M. J. Weber<sup>c</sup> found the proportion, in one case, to be 1 to 150; Dr. Clendinning<sup>d</sup> that of the male to be 1 to 160; that of the female 1 to 150; and Laënnec considered the organ to be

Fig. 211.



*View of the Heart in situ.*

S. Outline of sternum. C, C. Clavicles. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &c., Ribs. 1', 2', 3', 4', 5', 6', &c. Cartilages of ribs. 4". Right and left nipples. a. Right ventricle. b. Left ventricle. c. Septum between ventricles. d. Right auricle. e. Left auricle. f. Aorta. f'. Needle passing through aortic valves. g. Pulmonary artery. g'. Needle passing through valves of pulmonary artery. h. Vena cava descendens. i. Line of direction of mitral valve; dotted portion posterior to the right ventricle. i'. Needle passed into mitral valve at its extreme left. k. Line of tricuspid valve. o. Trachea.

of a healthy size when equal to the fist of the individual. Cruveilhier estimates the mean weight at six or seven ounces. Bouillaud<sup>e</sup> weighed the hearts of thirteen subjects, in whom, from the general habit, the previous state of health, and the mode of death, there was

<sup>a</sup> Medical Examiner, April 4, 1840.

<sup>b</sup> Introduction to Comp. Anat. translated by R. T. Gore, Lond. 1827.

<sup>c</sup> Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, von E. H. Weber, Braunschweig, 1831. Band. iii. s. 125.

<sup>d</sup> Journal of the Statistical Society of London, July, 1838.

<sup>e</sup> Traité Clinique des Maladies du Cœur, &c. Paris, 1835.

every reason to believe they were in the natural state. The mean was eight ounces and three drachms.<sup>a</sup> From all his data he is led to fix the mean weight of the heart, in the adult, from the 25th to the 60th year, at from 8 to 9 ounces.

Dr. Clendinning carefully examined nearly four hundred hearts of persons of both sexes, and of all ages above puberty. The average weight was about nine ounces avoirdupois, much less than that observed by Dr. John Reid,<sup>b</sup> who found the average weight of the male heart—of 89 weighed—to be 11 oz. and 1 dr.; and of the female heart—of 53 weighed—to be 9 oz. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  dr.

The dimensions of the heart, according to Lobstein and Bouillaud, are as follows:—Weight of heart, 9 to 10 ounces; length from base to apex, 5 inches 6 lines; breadth at the base, 3 inches; thickness of walls of left ventricle, 7 lines; do. at a finger's breadth above the apex, 4 lines; thickness of walls of right ventricle,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines; do. at apex,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a line; thickness of right auricle, 1 line; do. of left auricle,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a line. M. Bizot<sup>c</sup> has given the following measurements, taking the average of males from 16 to 89 years.

	Base.	Middle.	Apex.
Left ventricle . . . . .	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lines	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Right ventricle . . . . .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{5}$

In the female, the average thickness is something less.

Dr. Ranking<sup>d</sup> has published the results of measurements, evidently made with accuracy, of upwards of 100 hearts,—care being taken to exclude all those that exhibited any trace of organic change. The following are the mean admeasurements. Of 15 male hearts, the mean *circumference* was  $9\frac{1}{4}$ ths inches; of 17 female hearts,  $8\frac{1}{4}$ ths inches. The mean *length* of the male heart was  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ths inches; of the female,  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ths. The mean *thickness* of the left ventricle, in the male, was  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of an inch; in the female,  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths; of the right ventricle, in the male,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ths; in the female,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ths. The septum ventriculorum has, in the male, a mean thickness of  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of an inch; in the female,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ths. The aortic orifice, in the male, had a mean circumference of  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ths inches; the right auriculo-ventricular orifice,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches; the left auriculo-ventricular orifice,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ths inches. The corresponding parts of the female were relatively less. Dr. Ranking infers, that the heart of the male is larger than that of the female,—that the length of the healthy heart is to its circumference rather less than 1 to 2,—that the thickness of the parietes of the right ventricle to the left is as 1 to 3 nearly:—that the pulmonary artery is slightly wider than the aorta; and, lastly, that the right auriculo-ventricular opening is considerably larger than the left.

It need scarcely be said, that the weight and dimensions of the organ must vary according to the age, sex, &c., of the individual. M. Bizot<sup>e</sup> found, that the influence of stature on its size was slight;

<sup>a</sup> See, also, Dr. Gross, *Elements of Pathological Anatomy*, 2d edit. p. 485, Philad. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Med. Science, April, 1843, p. 322.

<sup>c</sup> For an account of the results of M. Bizot's researches, to ascertain the dimensions of the heart and arteries, see *Mémoires de la Société Médicale d'Observation*, Paris, 1837; and *Hope on the Diseases of the Heart*, Amer. edit., by Dr. Pennock, p. 234. Philad. 1842.

<sup>d</sup> London Medical Gazette, No. xxiv. 1842.

<sup>e</sup> *Mémoires de la Société Médicale d'Observation de Paris*, tom. 1ère. Paris, 1836.

and not such as might have been expected *a priori*; as in individuals of the male sex above sixty inches, and in females above fifty-five inches in height, the mean dimensions of the organ, especially its breadth, were less than in persons of lower stature. He found the width of the shoulders to furnish a better proportionate standard of its measurement,—the distance between the acromial point of the clavicles, and the length and breadth of the heart increasing in a tolerably regular ratio.

Numerous measurements of the organ have been made on children by MM. Rilliet and Barthéz,\* whence it results: *first*. That the circumference of the organ does not augment in proportion to the age. It is nearly the same from 15 months to five years and a half; and from the latter age it goes on increasing irregularly until puberty. *Secondly*. The distance from the base to the apex is nearly one-half the total circumference at the base of the ventricles. *Thirdly*. The maximum thickness of the parietes of the right ventricle varies but little according to age. It is generally 0·078 Eng. inch to the age of six years; and after this from 0·118 to 0·157. *Fourthly*. The maximum thickness of the left ventricle remains below 0·393 Eng. inch, until six years of age. Later, it is habitually 0·393, or a little more. *Fifthly*. The proportion between the thickness of the two ventricles is generally, as stated by M. Guersant, as 3 to 1, or as 4 to 1, rather more than less. *Sixthly*. The maximum thickness of the septum is nearly the same as that of the left ventricle, a little more rather than less. *Seventhly*. The seat of the maximum thickness of the right ventricle is at the base, and near the auriculo-ventricular orifice; that of the left ventricle one or two centimètres (In. 0·393 or 0·796) from the base; and that of the septum from two to three centimètres (In. 0·796 to 1·171). *Eighthly*. The size of the right auriculo-ventricular orifice remains nearly the same until the age of 5 years; it scarcely increases in size to the age of 10; but it then augments more manifestly. *Ninthly*. The left auriculo-ventricular orifice, which is always smaller than the right, increases a little more regularly than it with age, and frequently has the same dimensions as the distance from the base of the heart to its apex. *Tenthly*. The aortic orifice presents but a slight augmentation from 15 months to 13 years of age. *Eleventhly*. The pulmonary artery, on the contrary, increases notably from the age of six years to eight, so that although before this period it is equal to or scarcely greater than the aortic orifice, afterwards it is commonly much larger.

They did not find any marked difference between the male and female heart in children.

The heart is surrounded by its proper capsule, called the *pericardium*,—a fibro-serous membrane, which is composed of two layers. The outermost of these is fibrous, semi-transparent, and inelastic; strongly resembling the dura mater in its texture. Its thickness is greater at the sides than below, where it rests upon the diaphragm; or than above, where it passes along the great vessels which communicate with the heart. The inner layer is of a serous character, and

\* *Traité Clinique et Pratique des Maladies des Enfants*, iii. 663. Paris, 1843.



lines the outer, giving the polish to its cardiac surface; it is then reflected over the heart, and adheres to it by cellular substance. Like other serous membranes, it secretes a fluid, which is termed *liquor pericardii*, to lubricate the surface of the heart. This fluid is always found in greater or less quantity after death; and a question has arisen regarding the amount that must be considered morbid. This must obviously vary according to circumstances. It seldom, however, in the healthy condition, is above a tea-spoonful. When its quantity is augmented, along with inflammation of the membrane, the disease *hydropericarditis* exists. The great use of the pericardium is probably to keep the heart constantly moist by the exhalation effected from it; and, also, to restrain the movements of the heart, which, under the influence of the emotions, sometimes leaps inordinately. If the pericardium be divided in a living animal, the heart is found to bound, as it were, from its ordinary position; and hence the expression,—“leaping of the heart,”—during emotion, is physiologically accurate.

#### b. *Arteries.*

The *arteries* are solid, elastic tubes, which arise, by a single trunk, from the ventricle of each heart, and gradually divide and subdivide, until they are lost in the capillary system. The large artery, which arises from the left ventricle, and conducts the blood to every part of the body,—even to the lungs, so far as regards their nutrition,—is, as we have seen, the *aorta*; and that, which arises from the right ventricle and conveys the venous blood to the lungs for aeration, is the *pulmonary artery*. Neither the one nor the other is a continuation of the proper tissue of the ventricles; the inner membrane is alone continuous, the muscular structure of the heart being united to the fibrous coat of the arteries, by means of an intermediate fibrous tissue. The *aorta*, as soon as it quits the left ventricle, passes beneath the pulmonary artery, is entirely concealed by it, and ascends to form a curvature with the convexity upwards, the summit of which rises to within three-quarters of an inch or an inch of the superior edge of the sternum. This great curvature is called the *cross* or *arch of the aorta*. The vessel then passes downwards, from the top of the thorax to nearly as far as the sacrum, where it divides into two trunks, one of which proceeds to each lower extremity. In the whole of this course, it lies close to the spine, and gives off the various branches that convey arterial blood to the different parts of the body. Of the immense multitude of these ramifications an idea may be formed, when we reflect, that the finest pointed needle cannot be run into any part of the surface of the body, without blood,—probably both arterial and venous,—flowing. The larger arteries are situate deeply, and are thus remote from external injury. They communicate freely with each other, and their anastomoses are more frequent as the arteries become smaller and farther from the heart. At their final terminations, they communicate with the veins and the lymphatics.

It has been a common, but erroneous belief, that the branches of

the aorta, when taken collectively, are of much greater capacity than the parent trunk, and that this inequality goes on augmenting; so that the ultimate divisions of an artery are of much greater capacity than the trunk of the vessel. Hence, the arterial system has been considered to represent, in the aggregate, a cone, whose apex is at the heart, and the base in the organs; but as all the minute arterial ramifications are not visible, it is obviously impracticable to discover the ratio between their united capacity and that of the aorta at its origin; yet the problem has been attempted. Keill, by experiments made upon an injected subject, considered it to be as 44,507 to 1. J. C. A. Helvetius and Sylva as 500 to 1. Sénac estimated, not their capacities but their diameters, and he conceived the ratio of these to be as 118,490 to 90,000; and George Martine affirmed, that the calibre of a parent arterial trunk is equal to the cube root of the united diameters of the branches.\* It will be shown, however, hereafter, from the observations of M. Poiseuille and of Mr. Ferneley, that the notion of the much greater capacity of the branches than of the parent trunk is a fallacy. This subject will be referred to hereafter.

The *pulmonary artery* strongly resembles the aorta. Its distribution has been already described as a part of the respiratory organs.

The *arteries* are composed of different coats in superposition, respecting the number of which anatomists have not been entirely of accord. Some have admitted six,<sup>b</sup> others five, others four, but at the present day, three only are perhaps generally received;—first, an *external* or *cellular*, called also *nervous*, and *cartilaginous* by Vesalius, and *tendinous* by Heister, which is formed of condensed cellular substance, and has considerable strength and elasticity, so that if a ligature be applied tightly round the vessel, the middle and internal coats may be completely cut through, whilst the outer coat may remain entire. Scarpa is not disposed to admit this as one of the coats. He considers that it is only an exterior envelope, to retain the vessel *in situ*. The next coat is the *middle*, *muscular* or *proper* coat, the character of which has been the subject of much discussion. It is composed of yellow, circular fibres, which do not appear individually to pass entirely round the vessel. This coat was, at one time, almost universally believed to be muscular. Such was the opinion of Hunter;<sup>c</sup> and hence the muscularity of the arteries was regarded as an agent in the circulation. Careful examination does not, however, exhibit the characters of ordinary muscular tissue. The latter is soft, extensible, contractile, and of a red colour: the arterial tunic is firm, solid, elastic, easily ruptured, and of a yellow colour, resembling not a little the muscular coat of the intestines. Henle<sup>d</sup> advances the opinion, that its structure is intermediate between cellular and muscular tissue; its microscopic elements being broad and very flat,

\* Haller, *Elementa Physiologie*, tom. iv.

<sup>b</sup> See, on the Histology of the Arteries, Henle, *op. cit.*; Mr. Paget, *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, July, 1842, p. 284; and Mandl, *Mannel d'Anatomie Générale*, p. 187, Paris, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> On the Blood, p. 124, Lond. 1794.

<sup>d</sup> Casper's *Wochenschrift*, May 23, 1840, and *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* Oct. 1840, p. 551.

slightly granulated fibres or bands, which lie in rings around the internal membrane, and are about 0.003 lines in diameter. These with a system or network of dark streaks constitute the middle coat of the artery. Nysten,<sup>a</sup> Magendie,<sup>b</sup> and Müller<sup>c</sup> applied the galvanic stimulus to it, but without effect; and it is known, that this is the most sensible test of irritability. The middle coat appears to be a tissue of a peculiar character, the base of which is formed by the *tissu jaune*, or yellow tissue of the later comparative anatomists; itself composed essentially of gelatin.<sup>d</sup> It is proper to remark, that the heart also seems equally unsusceptible of the galvanic stimulus; or at least is not affected by it like the voluntary muscles. In the cases of two executed criminals, which the author had an opportunity of observing, although all degrees of galvanism were applied, half an hour after the drop fell, no motion whatever was perceptible; yet the voluntary muscles contracted, and continued to do so for an hour and a half after execution. The same fact is recorded in the galvanic experiments of Dr. Ure, detailed in another part of this work, (vol. i. p. 373,) and is attested by Bichat, Treviranus and others. Humboldt, Pfaff, J. F. Meckel, Wedemeyer, and J. Müller, however, affirm the contrary. The last observer states,<sup>e</sup> that with a single pair of plates he excited contractions not only in a frog's heart, which had ceased to beat, but also in that of a dog, under similar circumstances. Into the subject of the cause of the heart's action, we shall, however, inquire presently. Müller<sup>f</sup> suggests, that in the capability to contract under the influence of cold, as exhibited in the experiments of Schwann, referred to hereafter, the contractile tissue of the arteries resembles that of the dartos, and that which is found in many parts of the skin, as about the nipple and follicles, although the physical characters of the latter are so different from elastic tissue. The *third* or *inner coat* is smooth and polished, and is a continuation of the membrane which lines the ventricles. It has an epithelial lining, resembles the serous membranes, and is lubricated by a kind of serous exhalation.<sup>g</sup>

The arteries receive the constituents that belong to every living part,—arteries, veins, lymphatics, and nerves. These arteries proceed not from the vessels themselves, which they nourish, but from adjacent trunks, as we have remarked of the *vasa vasorum*, to which class they really belong. The nerves proceed from the great sympathetic, form plexuses around the vessels, and accompany them through all their ramifications. By some anatomists, the arteries of the head, neck, thorax, and abdomen, are conceived to be supplied from the great sympathetic, whilst those of the extremities are supplied from the nerves of the spinal marrow. It is probable, however, that more

<sup>a</sup> Recherches de Physiologie, &c. p. 325, Paris, 1811.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, 2de édit. ii. 387, Paris, 1825.

<sup>c</sup> Handbuch der Physiologie, Baly's translation, p. 205, Lond. 1838.

<sup>d</sup> Eulenberg, De Tela Elasticâ Diss. Berol. 1836, cited by Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 181, Paris, 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Handbuch, &c. s. w., translation, p. 205.

<sup>f</sup> Archiv. für 1836, and Lond. Med. Gaz. May, 1837.

<sup>g</sup> For some speculations as to the agency of this secretion in the production of the buffy state of the blood, &c., see M. Romain Gérardin, in Journal des Connaissances Médico-Chirurgicales Mars, 1836.

accurate discrimination might trace the dispersion of the twigs of the great nervous system of involuntary motion on all these vessels. The organization of the arteries renders them very tough and extremely elastic, both of which qualities are necessary to enable them to withstand the impulse of the blood sent from the heart, and to react upon the fluid so as to influence its course. It is, likewise, by virtue of this structure, that the parietes retain their form in the dead body,—one of the points that distinguish them from the veins.

The vitality of the arteries is inconsiderable. Hence their diseases are by no means numerous or frequent; an important fact, seeing that their functions are eminent, and their activity incessant.

### c. *Intermediate, Peripheral or Capillary System.*

The capillary or intermediate vessels are the vessels of extreme minuteness, by some considered to be formed by the termination of the arteries and the commencement of the veins; by others to be a distinct set of vessels. This system forms a plexus which is distributed over every part of the body, and constitutes, in the aggregate what is meant by the *capillary system*. It admits of two great divisions, one of which is situate at the termination of the branches given off from the aorta, and is called the *general capillary system*; the other at the termination of the branches of the pulmonary artery,—the *pulmonic capillary system*. Although the capillary system of man does not admit of detection by the unaided sight, its existence is evidenced by the microscope;<sup>a</sup> by injections, which can develop it artificially in almost every organ; by the application of excitants, and by inflammation. The parietes of the vessels frequently cannot be distinguished from the substance of the organs;—the colour of the blood, or the matter of the injection alone indicating their course. In some parts, as in the white textures, these vessels do not seem to admit the red particles of the blood, whilst, in others, the red particles always circulate. This diversity has given rise to the distinction of the capillaries into *red* and *white*; but there are probably no white capillaries. It is difficult, indeed, to conceive of the red particles being arrested at the mouths of the white vessels—if such existed, without their preventing the entrance of fluid into them. The true cause of the whiteness appears to be the small quantity of blood which they receive, and it is only when the network is very close, and the quantity of blood passing through them great, that a perceptible colour is produced by the red particles. If a plate of red glass be reduced to a very thin pellicle, and it be placed between the eye and the light, its colour will be scarcely sensible. To perceive it several of these pellicles must be placed over each other, and they must be examined not by their transparency, but by causing the light to fall on their surface, or by reflection.<sup>b</sup> There are certain textures, again, which receive no blood-vessels,—the corneous and epidermous, for example.

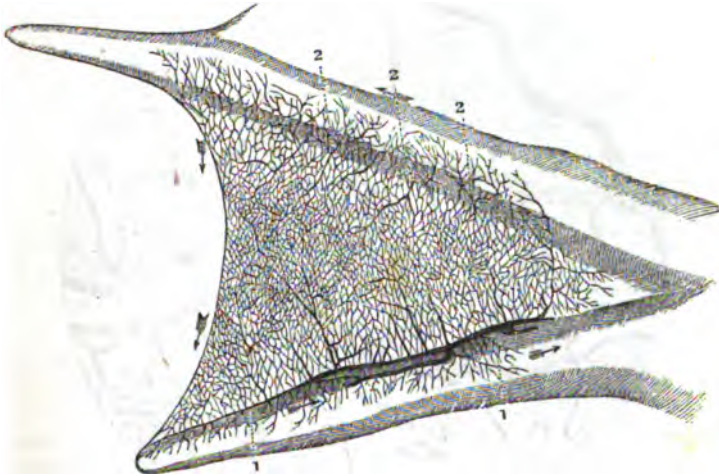
<sup>a</sup> See Berres, in Magendie on the Blood, Select Medical Library edit., p. 170, Philad. 1839.

<sup>b</sup> Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 194, Paris, 1843; V. Bruns, Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen, s. 112, Braunschweig, 1841; and A. Donné, Cours de Microscopie, p. 62, Paris, 1844.

They are probably nourished by transudation of nutritive matter from the vessels<sup>a</sup> through the cells of the tissue.

The ancients were of opinion that the arteries and veins are separated by an intermediate substance, consisting of some fluid effused from the blood, which they called, in consequence, *parenchyma*.<sup>b</sup> The notion is, indeed, still entertained, and is considered to be supported by microscopical observations. In the examination of delicate and transparent tissues, currents of moving globules are seen with many spaces of apparently solid substances, resembling small islets, surrounded by an agitated fluid. If it be irritated, by thrusting a fine needle into it, the motion of the globules becomes more rapid, new currents arise where none were previously perceptible, and the whole becomes a mass of moving particles, the general direction of which tends towards the points of irritation. But, although a part of the apparatus of intermediate circulation may be arranged, as we shall see presently, in this manner, there are reasons for the belief, that a more direct communication between the arteries and the veins exists also. The substance of an injection passes from one set of vessels into the other, without any evidence of intermediate extravasation. The blood has been seen, too, passing in living animals, directly from the arteries into the veins. Leeuwenhoek<sup>c</sup> and Malpighi,<sup>d</sup> on examining the swim-bladders, gills, and tails of fishes, the mesen-

Fig. 212.



*Circulation in the Web of the Frog's Foot.*  
1, 1. Veins. 2, 2. Arteries.—(Wagner.)

tery of frogs, &c.—which are transparent,—saw this distinctly; and the fact has been proved by the observations of Cowper, Cheselden,

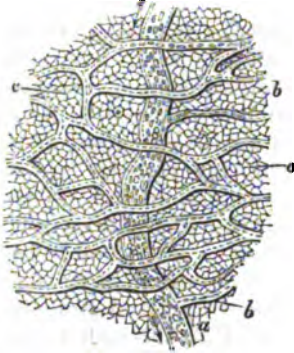
<sup>a</sup> Mr. Toynbee, Proceedings of the Royal Society, No. 48.

<sup>b</sup> Galen. Administrat. Anatom., vi. 2.

<sup>c</sup> Select Works, containing his Microscopical Discoveries, by Samuel Hooke, p. 90, Lond. 1778.

<sup>d</sup> Epist. de Pulmonibus, 1661, and Haller. Element. Physiol.

Fig. 213.

*Portion of the Web of the Frog's Foot.*

a. A deeper lying venous trunk, with which two smaller capillary veins, *b b*, communicate. *c, c*. The angular unnuclated cells of the parenchyma.—(Wagner.)

45 diameters. The superficial network of capillaries is seen admit-

Hales, Spallanzani, Thomson, Cuvier, Configliachi, Rusconi, Döllinger, Carus, and others.\* The artery and vein terminate in two different ways;—at times, after the artery has become extremely minute, by sending off numerous lateral branches, as Haller states he noticed in the swimming-bladders of fishes; at others, by proceeding parallel to each other, and communicating by a multitude of transverse branches. Fig. 212 exhibits a microscopic view of the membrane between two of the toes of the hind foot of the frog, *Rana esculenta*; magnified three diameters.

Fig. 213 represents a portion of the web of a frog's foot magnified

Fig. 214.

*Circulation in the Under Surface of the Tongue of the Frog.*

*x, x*. Venous branches uniting to form a principal vein, *y*. *z, z*. Follicles into which a small artery enters, which becomes convoluted before issuing from them. A beautiful capillary rete, and some muscular fibres, are also seen.—(Donné.)

\* Tiedemann's *Traité de Physiol.*, trad. par Jourdan, p. 345, Paris, 1831.

ting but a single series of blood particles. All the vessels, here figured, according to Wagner,<sup>a</sup> are furnished with distinct parietes.

Fig. 214 is a beautiful representation of the circulation in the surface of the tongue. Along the larger vessels the blood can be seen rushing with excessive velocity. These have distinct coats; but in many parts single files of globules are seen proceeding slowly through channels to which the author has not been able to satisfy himself that there were distinct parietes. The tongue of the frog offers by far the most satisfactory opportunity for distinctly witnessing the circulation; a fact for the knowledge of which the author is indebted to M. Donné.<sup>b</sup>

The capillary vessels have been esteemed by some to belong chiefly to the arteries, the venous radicles not arising almost imperceptibly from the capillary system, as the arteries terminate in it, but having a marked size at the part where they quit this system, which strikingly contrasts with the excessive tenuity of the capillary arterial vessels; whilst between the capillary system and the arteries, there is no distinct line of demarcation. The opinion of Bichat<sup>c</sup> was, that this system is entirely independent of both arteries and veins; and Autenrieth<sup>d</sup> imagined, that the minute arteries unite to form trunks, which again divide before communicating with the veins, so as to represent a system analogous to that of the vena portæ. The experiments of Dr. Marshall Hall<sup>e</sup> on the batrachia, which were performed with signal care, led him to the following conclusions, which agree with those of Bichat, so far as regards the independent existence of a capillary system. The minute vessels, he says, may be considered as arterial, so long as they continue to divide and subdivide into smaller and smaller branches. The minute veins are the vessels that gradually enlarge from the successive addition of small roots. The true capillary vessels are distinct from these. They do not become smaller by subdivision, or larger by conjunction, but they are characterized by continual and successive union and division, or anastomoses, whilst they retain a nearly uniform diameter. The last branches of the arterial system, and the first root of the venous, Dr. Hall remarks, may be denominated minute, but the term "capillary" must be reserved for, and appropriated to, vessels of a distinct character and order, and of an intermediate station, carrying red globules, and perfectly visible by means of the microscope.

The capillary arteries are distinct in structure—as we shall see they are in office—from the larger arteries. All the coats of these minute vessels diminish in thickness and strength, as the tubes lessen in size, but more especially the middle coat, which, according to Wedemeyer, may still be distinguished by its colour in the transverse section of any vessel whose calibre is no less than the tenth of a line; but entirely disappears in vessels too small to receive the wave of blood in a manifest jet. But while the coats diminish, the nervous filaments, distributed to them, increase; the smaller and thinner the capillary,

<sup>a</sup> Elements of Physiology, by R. Willis, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Cours de Microscopie, p. 109, Paris, 1844; and Atlas, planche, vi., Paris, 1845.

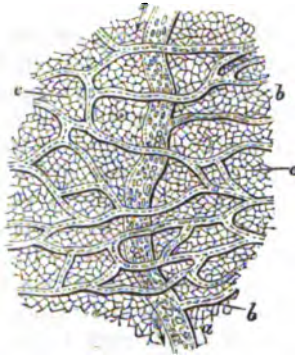
<sup>c</sup> Anatomie Générale, tom. i.

<sup>d</sup> Physiologie, ii. 138.

<sup>e</sup> A Critical and Experimental Essay on the Circulation, &c., Lond. 1830; Amer. edit. Philad. 1835.



Fig. 213.



Portion of the Web of the Frog's Foot.

a. A deeper lying venous trunk, with which two smaller capillary veins, *b b*, communicate. *c, c*. The angular uninnucleated cells of the parenchyma.—(Wagner.)

45 diameters. The superficial network of capillaries is seen admit-

Hales, Spallanzani, Thomson, Cuvier, Configliachi, Rusconi, Döllinger, Carus, and others.\* The artery and vein terminate in two different ways;—at times, after the artery has become extremely minute, by sending off numerous lateral branches, as Haller states he noticed in the swimming-bladders of fishes; at others, by proceeding parallel to each other, and communicating by a multitude of transverse branches. Fig. 212 exhibits a microscopic view of the membrane between two of the toes of the hind foot of the frog, *Rana esculenta*; magnified three diameters.

Fig. 213 represents a portion of the web of a frog's foot magnified

Fig. 214.



Circulation in the Under Surface of the Tongue of the Frog.

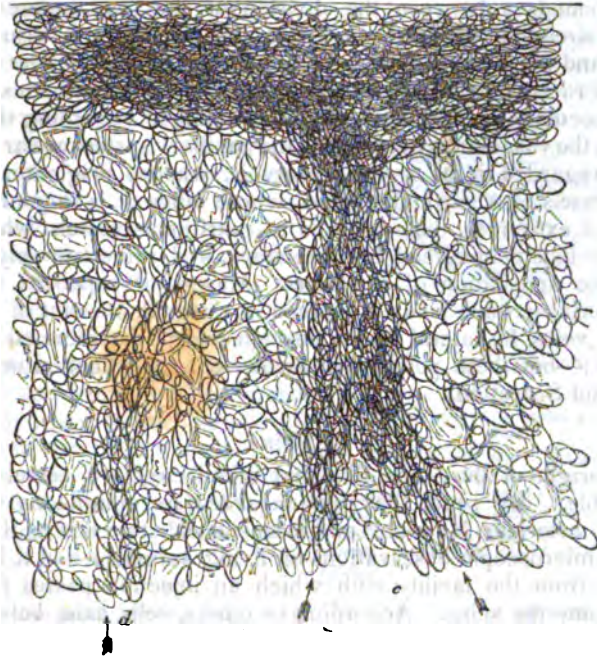
*z, z*. Venous branches uniting to form a principal vein, *y*. *z, z*. Follicles into which a small artery enters, which becomes convoluted before issuing from them. A beautiful capillary rete, and some muscular fibres, are also seen.—(Donné.)

\* Tiedemann's *Traité de Physiol.*, trad. par Jourdan, p. 345, Paris, 1831.



150 diameters, the capillaries are exceedingly delicate, and their walls by no means so distinct. The arterial and venous trunks and the capillaries that form the medium of communication between them are well seen, as well as the islets of the substance of the lung, in which a granular or cellular texture is indistinctly perceptible.\* Dr. Car-

Fig. 216.



*Blood-vessels of the Lung of a Live Newt.*

*b, a.* Pulmonary vein receiving blood from another vein, *c*; itself made up of two branches.  
*d.* Pulmonary artery anastomosing with the pulmonary veins by means of capillary vessels.—  
 (Wagner.)

penter<sup>b</sup> is of opinion, that the mode of origin of the capillaries, also refutes the supposition, that they are mere passages channelled out of the tissues through which they convey the blood. He thinks there can be no doubt, that they are produced, in any newly forming tissue, not by the retirement of the cells, one from the other, so as to leave passages between them, but by the formation of communications among certain cells, whose cavities become connected with each other, so as to constitute a plexus of tubes, of which the original cell-walls become the parietes. But farther observations are needed on this matter. The whole affair of the arrangement of cells in the building up of tissues has appeared to the author to have been adopted too hastily; and opinions will doubtless experience vast modifications hereafter.

\* See, on this subject, Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., July, 1842, p. 286.

<sup>b</sup> Human Physiology, § 477, Lond. 1842.

Of these minute capillaries,—the diameter of which, in parts finely injected, varies from the  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th to the  $\frac{1}{2000}$ th, and the  $\frac{1}{2000}$ th of an inch<sup>a</sup> and even more,<sup>b</sup>—some, according to Wedemeyer, communicate with veins. In others, there are no visible openings or pores in the sides or ends, by which the blood can be extravasated preparatory to its being imbibed by the veins. There is nowhere apparent a sudden passage of the arterial into the venous stream; no abrupt boundary between the division of the two systems. The arterial streamlet winds through long routes before it assumes the nature, and takes the direction, of a venous streamlet. The ultimate capillary rarely passes from a large arterial into a large venous branch. Many speculations have, however, been indulged, regarding the mode in which the vascular extremities of the capillary system are arranged.<sup>c</sup> Bichat regarded it as a vast reservoir, whence originate, besides veins, vessels of a particular order, whose office it is to pour out, by their free extremity, the materials of nutrition,—vessels, which had been previously imagined by Boerhaave, and are commonly known under the appellation of *exhalants*. Mascagni<sup>d</sup> supposed that the final arterial terminations are pierced, towards their point of junction with the veins, by lateral pores, through which the secreted matters transude;—but these points will farther engage attention under Nutrition and Secretion.

#### d. Veins.

The origin of the veins, like that of all capillary vessels, is imperceptible. By some they are regarded as continuous with the capillary arteries; Malpighi<sup>e</sup> and Leeuwenhoek<sup>f</sup> state this as the result of their microscopic observations on living animals; and it has been inferred, from the facility with which an injection passes from the arteries into the veins. According to others, cells exist between the arterial and the venous capillaries, in which the former deposit their fluid and whence the latter obtain it. Others, again, substitute a spongy tissue for the cells. It has also been asked,—whether there may not be more delicate vessels, communicating with their radicles, similar to the exhalants which are presumed to exist at the extremities of the arteries, and which are regarded as the agents of exhalation. All this is, however, conjectural. It has already been observed, that the mesenteric veins have been considered by some to terminate by open mouths in the villi of the intestines; and the same arrangement has been conceived to prevail with regard to other veins; but there is no evidence of any such arrangement. Ribes concludes, from the results of injecting the veins, that some of the venous capillaries are immediately continuous with the minute

<sup>a</sup> Müller, op. cit. p. 211.

<sup>b</sup> Krause, in Müller's Archiv. Heft. i. 1837; and Brit. and For. Med. Rev., July, 1838, p. 218; also, Henle, Allgemeine Anatomie, S. 176, Leipz. 1841.

<sup>c</sup> See, on this subject, Wilbrand, Physiologie des Menschen, Kap. xxviii. and xxix. Leipz. 1840.

<sup>d</sup> Vascor. Lymph. Corpor. Human. Histor., Sen. 1817; and Prodrómo della Grande Anatomie, Firenz. 1819.

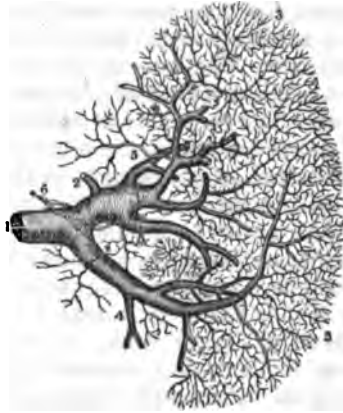
<sup>e</sup> Opera., Lond. 1687.

<sup>f</sup> Opera., Lugd. Bat. 1722.

arteries, whilst others open into the cells of the laminated tissue, and into the substance of the different organs.

When the veins become visible, they appear as an infinite number of tubes, extremely small, and communicating very freely with each other; so as to form a very fine network. These vessels gradually become larger and less numerous, but still preserve their reticular arrangement; until, ultimately, all the veins of the body empty themselves into the heart, by three trunks—the *vena cava inferior*, the *vena cava superior*, and the *coronary vein*. The *first* of these receives the veins from the lower part of the body, and extends from the fourth lumbar vertebra to the right auricle; the *second* receives all the veins of the upper part of the body; and into it the subclavian opens, into which the chyle and lymph are discharged. It extends from the cartilage of the first rib to the right auricle. The coronary vein belongs to the heart exclusively. Between the superior and inferior cava a communication is formed by means of the *vena azygos*.

Fig. 217.



*Splenic Vein with its Branches and Ramifications.*

1. Trunk of the vein. 2. Gastric branch of this vein coming from the stomach. 3. Branches coming from the substance of the spleen. 4. Small mesenteric vein cut off. 5. Branches coming from external coat of the spleen. 6. Branches of lymphatic vessels of spleen.

Certain organs appear almost wholly composed of venous radicles. The spleen is one of these. Fig. 217 represents the ramifications of the splenic vein, in the substance of that organ; and if we consider, that the splenic artery has corresponding ramifications, the viscus would seem to be almost wholly formed of blood-vessels. The same may be said of the corpus cavernosum of the penis and clitoris, the nipple, urethra, glans penis, &c. If an injection be thrown into one of the veins that issue from these different tissues, they are wholly filled by the injection: this rarely occurs, if the injection be forced into the artery. Magendie<sup>a</sup> affirms, that the communication of the cavernous tissue of the penis with the veins occurs through apertures two or three millimètres—In. 0·117—in diameter.

In their course towards the heart, particularly in the extremities, the veins are divided into two planes;—one subcutaneous or superficial; the other deep-seated, and accompanying the deep-seated arteries. Numerous anastomoses occur between these, especially when the veins become small, or are more distant from the heart. We find, that their disposition differs according to the organ. In the brain, they constitute, in great part, the pia mater; and enter the

<sup>a</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 238.

ventricles, where they contribute to the formation of the plexus choroïdes and tela choroïdea. Leaving the organ we find them situate between the laminæ of the dura mater; when they take the name of *sinuses*. In the spermatic cord, they are extremely tortuous, anastomose repeatedly, and form the *corpus pampiniforme*; around the vagina, they constitute the *corpus retiforme*; in the uterus, the *uterine sinuses*, &c. The veins have three coats in superposition, according to most anatomists: but many modern anatomists are disposed to assign them six.<sup>a</sup> The *outer coat* is cellular, dense, and very difficult to rupture. The *middle coat* has been termed the *proper membrane of the veins*. The generality of anatomists describe it as composed of longitudinal fibres, which are more distinct in the vena cava inferior than in the vena cava superior; in the superficial veins than in the deep-seated; in the branches than in the trunks. Magendie<sup>b</sup> states, that he has never been able to observe the fibres of the middle coat; but that he has always seen a multitude of filaments interlacing in all directions; and assuming the appearance of longitudinal fibres, when the vein is folded or wrinkled longitudinally, which is frequently the case in the large veins. It exhibits no signs of muscularity; even when the galvanic stimulus is applied; yet Magendie suspects its chemical nature to be fibrinous. It was remarked, in an early part of this work, (vol. i. p. 43,) that the bases of the cellular and muscular tissue are, respectively, gelatin, and fibrin; and that the various resisting solids may all be brought to one or other of these tissues. The middle coat of the veins doubtless belongs to the former, and is a variety of the *tissu jaune* of the French anatomists. Magendie merely states its fibrinous nature to be a suspicion; and, like numerous suspicions, it may be devoid of foundation. Yet we have reason to believe, that it is contractile. Broussais<sup>c</sup> affirms, that this action is one of the principal causes of the return of the blood to the heart. He conceives, that the alternate movements of contraction and relaxation are altogether similar to those of the heart; but that they are so light as not to have been rendered perceptible by any process in the majority of the veins, although very visible in the vena cava of frogs, where it joins the right auricle. In some experiments by Sarlandière on the circulation, he observed these movements to be independent of those of the heart. After the heart was removed, the contraction and relaxation of the vein continued for many minutes in the cut extremity, and even after blood had ceased to flow.<sup>d</sup>

The *inner coat* is extremely thin and smooth at its inner surface, and has an epithelial lining. It is very extensible, and yet presents considerable resistance; bearing a very tight ligature without being ruptured. In many of the veins, parabolic folds of the inner coat exist, like those in the lymphatics, and inservient to a similar purpose: the free edge of these *valves* is directed towards the centre of the circulation; showing that their office is to permit the blood to flow in

<sup>a</sup> See, on the researches of recent histologists, Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Review, July, 1842, p. 285.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. ii. 242.

<sup>c</sup> Op. citat., American translation, p. 391.

<sup>d</sup> See, on this subject, the remarks on the *circulation in the veins*.

that direction, and to prevent its retrogression. They do not seem, however, in many cases, well adapted for the purpose; inasmuch as their size is insufficient to obliterate the cavity of the vein. By most anatomists, this arrangement is considered to depend upon primary organization; but Bichat conceives it to be wholly owing to the state of contraction, or dilatation of the veins at the moment of death. Magendie, however, affirms, that he has never seen the distension of the veins exert any influence on the size of the valves; but that their shape is somewhat modified by the state of contraction or dilatation; and this he thinks probably misled Bichat.<sup>a</sup> Moreover, they are covered by the epithelial coat and consist of tissue like that of fibrous membrane, which, as Hunter<sup>b</sup> observed, shows, that they are not duplicatures of the lining membrane.<sup>c</sup> Their number varies in different veins. As a general rule, they are more numerous, where the blood proceeds against its gravity, or where the veins are very extensible, and receive but a feeble support from the circumambient parts, as in the extremities. They are entirely wanting in the veins of the deep-seated viscera; in those of the brain and spinal marrow, and of the lungs; in the vena portæ, and in the veins of the kidneys, bladder, and uterus. They exist, however, in the spermatic veins; and, sometimes, in the internal mammary, and in the branches of the vena azygos. On the cardiac side of these valves, cavities or sinuses exist, which appear externally in the form of varices. These dilations enable the reflux blood to catch the free edges of the valves, and thus to depress them, so as to close the cavity of the vessel; serving, in this respect, precisely the same functions as the sinuses of the pulmonary artery and aorta in regard to the semilunar valves. The valves exist in veins of less than a line in diameter.<sup>d</sup>

The three coats united form a solid vessel,—according to Bichat devoid of elasticity, but in the opinion of Magendie<sup>e</sup> elastic in an eminent degree. The elasticity is certainly much less than that of the arteries. The veins are nourished by *vasa vasorum*, or by small arteries, which have their accompanying veins. Every vessel, indeed, in the body, if we may judge from analogy, appears to draw its nutriment, not from the blood circulating in it, but from small arterial vessels, hence termed *vasa vasorum*. This applies not only to the veins, but to the arteries. The heart, for example, is not nourished by the fluid constantly passing through it; but by vessels, which arise from the aorta, and are distributed over its surface, and in its intimate texture. The coronary arteries and their corresponding veins are, consequently, the *vasa vasorum* of the heart. In like manner, the aorta and all its branches, as well as the veins, receive their *vasa vasorum*. There must, however, be a term to this; and if our powers of observation were sufficient we ought to be able to discover a vessel, which must derive its support or nourishment exclusively from its own stores.

The nerves that have been detected on the veins, are branches of the great sympathetic.

<sup>a</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 241.

<sup>b</sup> Henle; and Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Review, July, 1842, p. 284.

<sup>c</sup> Henle, op. cit.

<sup>d</sup> Treatise on the Blood, &c.

<sup>e</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 243.

The capacity of the venous system is generally esteemed to be double that of the arterial. It is obvious, however, that we can only arrive at an approximation, and that not a very close one. The size and number of the veins is generally so much greater than that of the corresponding arteries, that when the vessels of a membranous part are injected, the veins are observed to form a plexus, and, in a great measure, to conceal the arteries: in the intestines, the number is more nearly equal. The difficulty of arriving at any exact conclusion, regarding the relative capacities of the two systems, is forcibly indicated by the fact, that, whilst Borelli conceived the preponderance in favour of the veins to be as four to one, Sauvages estimated it at nine to four, Haller at sixteen to nine, and Keill at twenty-five to nine.<sup>a</sup>

Fig. 218.



Roots, Trunk, and Divisions of the Vena Portæ.

- 1, 1. Veins coming from intestines.  
2. Trunk of vena portæ. 3, 3. Branches as distributed in the liver.

only with the veins of the digestive organs situate in the abdomen; as the spleen, pancreas, stomach, intestines, and omenta. The veins of all the other abdominal organs,—of the kidney, suprarenal capsules, &c., are not connected with it. The first part of the vena portæ is called, by some authors, *vena portæ abdominalis vel ventralis*, to distinguish it from the hepatic portion, which is of great size, and has been called the *sinus* of the vena portæ.

## 2. BLOOD.

It is not easy to ascertain the total quantity of blood circulating in both arteries and veins. Many attempts have been instituted for this

<sup>a</sup> *Elementa Physiologiæ*, Latsan., 1757-1766.

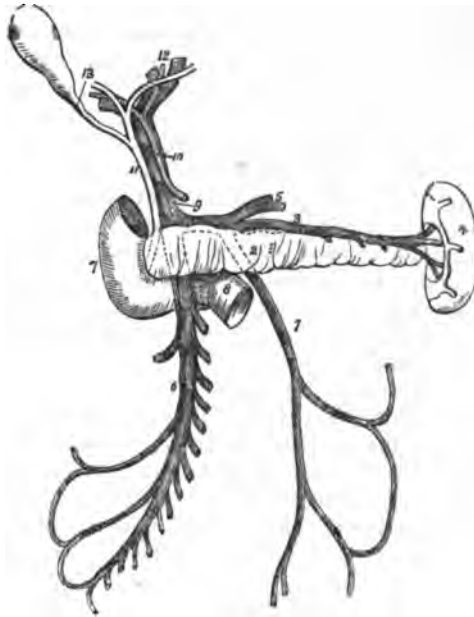
<sup>b</sup> G. C. Holland, *The Philosophy of the Moving Powers of the Blood*, p. 31, Lond., 1844.

purpose, but the statements are most diversified, partly owing to the erroneous direction followed by the experimenters, but, still more, to the variation that must be perpetually occurring in the amount of fluid, according to age, sex, temperament, activity of secretion, &c.

Fig. 219.

Harvey and the earlier experimenters formed their estimates, by opening the veins and arteries freely on a living animal, collecting the blood that flowed, and comparing this with the weight of the body. The plan is, however, objectionable, as the whole of the blood can never be obtained in this manner, and the proportion discharged varies in different animals and circumstances. By this method, Moulins found the proportion in a sheep to be  $\frac{1}{33}$ th; King, in a lamb,  $\frac{1}{30}$ th; in a duck,  $\frac{1}{30}$ th; and in a rabbit  $\frac{1}{30}$ th. From these and other observations, Harvey concluded, that the weight of the blood of an animal is to that of the whole animal as 1 to 20. Drélincourt, however, found the proportion in a hog to be nearly  $\frac{1}{10}$ th;

and Moor,  $\frac{1}{12}$ th.<sup>a</sup> Sir George Lefevre<sup>b</sup> cites from Wrisberg, that from a plethoric young woman, who was beheaded, 25 pounds of blood were collected; and some recent experiments by Mr. Wanner,<sup>c</sup> led to the following results: A bullock, weighing 1659 pounds imperial, yielded 69 pounds of blood, or in the ratio of 1 to 23·81; another weighing 1640 pounds, yielded 65 pounds, or in the ratio of 1 to 23·73; a cow, weighing 1298 pounds, yielded 59 pounds, or as 1 to 21·77; a sheep, weighing 110 pounds, yielded  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, or in the proportion of 1 to 22·72; another weighing 88 pounds, yielded 4·4 pounds, or as 1 to 20; and in a rabbit, the proportion was as 1 to 25 exactly.



Portal System.

1. Inferior mesenteric vein: traced by means of dotted lines behind the pancreas (2) to terminate in splenic vein (3). 4. Spleen. 5. Gastric veins, opening into splenic vein. 6. Superior mesenteric vein. 7. Descending portion of duodenum. 8. Its transverse portion which is crossed by superior mesenteric vein and by a part of trunk of superior mesenteric artery. 9. Portal vein. 10. Hepatic artery. 11. Ductus communis choledochus. 12. Divisions of duct and vessels at transverse fissure of liver. 13. Cystic duct leading to gall-bladder.—(Wilson.)

<sup>a</sup> Haller, *Elementa Physiologiae*, iv. 2, seq.

<sup>b</sup> An Apology for the Nerves, p. 30, London, 1844.

<sup>c</sup> Edinburgh Med. and Sur. Journ., July, 1845, cited from *Gazette Médicale*.

An animal, according to Sir Astley Cooper,<sup>a</sup> generally expires, as soon as blood, equal to about  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the weight of the body, is abstracted. Thus, if it weigh sixteen ounces, the loss of an ounce of blood will be sufficient to destroy it; ten pounds will destroy a man weighing one hundred and sixty pounds; and, on examining the body, blood will still be found—in the small vessels especially—even although every facility may have been afforded for draining them. Experiments have, however, shown that no fixed proportion of the circulating fluid can be indicated as necessary for the maintenance of life. In the experiments of Rosa, asphyxia occurred in young calves when from three to six pounds, or from  $\frac{1}{3}$ d to  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of their weight, had been abstracted, but in older ones not until they had lost from twelve to sixteen pounds, or from  $\frac{1}{4}$ th to  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of their weight. In a lamb, asphyxia supervened on a loss of twenty-eight ounces, or  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of its weight, and in a wether, on a loss of sixty-one ounces, or  $\frac{1}{3}$ d of its weight. Dr. Blundell<sup>b</sup> found that some dogs died after losing nine ounces, or  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of their weight; and others withstood the abstraction of a pound, or  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of their weight; and M. Piorry affirms, that dogs can bear the loss of  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of their weight, but if a few ounces more be drawn they succumb.

From all the experiments and observations, Burdach<sup>c</sup> concludes, that, on the average, death occurs when  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths, or  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths, of the mass of blood is lost, although he has observed it in many cases, as in hæmoptysis, to supervene on the loss of  $\frac{1}{4}$ th, and even of  $\frac{1}{8}$ th.

The following table exhibits the computations of different physiologists regarding the weight of the circulating fluid—arterial and venous.

	lbs.		lbs.
Harvey,	}	Müller and Burdach,	20
Lister,		Wagner, -	20 to 25
Moulin,		Quesnai, -	27
Abildgaard,		F. Hoffmann, -	28
Blumenbach,	}	Haller, -	28 to 30
Lobb,		Young, -	40
Lower,		Hamberger, -	80
Sprengel,		Keill, -	100 <sup>d</sup>

Although the absolute estimate of Hoffmann is perhaps below the truth, his proportion is probably nearly accurate. He conceives, that the weight of the blood is to that of the whole body as 1 to 5. Accordingly, an individual, weighing one hundred and fifty pounds, will have about thirty pounds of blood; one of two hundred pounds, forty; and so on. Of this, one-third is supposed to be contained in the arteries, and two-thirds in the veins. The estimate of Haller is, perhaps, near the truth; the arterial blood being, he conceives, to the venous, as 4 to 9. If we assume, therefore, that the whole quantity of the blood is thirty pounds in a man weighing one hundred and fifty pounds,—which is perhaps allowing too much,—nine pounds, at least, may be contained in the arteries, and the remainder in the veins.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Principles and Practice of Surgery, p. 33, Lee's edition, Lond. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Researches, Physiological and Pathological, p. 66 and 94, Lond. 1825.

<sup>c</sup> Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, iv. 101 and 384, Leipzig, 1832.

<sup>d</sup> Haller, op. citat.; and Herbst, Comment. Historico-critica, &c., de Sanguinis Quantitate, Gotting. 1822.

<sup>e</sup> Good's Study of Medicine, Physiological Proem to class Hæmatica; Haller, op. citat.;



An ingenious plan, proposed by M. Valentin for estimating the quantity of blood in the body, affords an approximation to the truth, and is confirmatory of the estimate made from other data. Having weighed an animal, and determined the proportion of solid matter in a portion of its blood, he injects into its vessels a given quantity of distilled water, which soon becomes mixed with the blood. He then takes away a fresh portion of blood, and ascertains the proportion of solid matter in it. The relation between the amount of solid matter in the blood first taken, and that in the blood diluted with the given quantity of water, enables him to calculate the quantity of blood in the body of the animal.<sup>a</sup> In this manner, he found the ratio of blood to the weight of the body to be in the dog as 1 to 4.36 in the male sex, and 1 to 4.93 for the female; and adapting these proportions to M. Quetelet's table of the weight of the human subject at different ages, he infers, that the mean quantity of blood in the male adult, at the time when the weight of the body may be presumed to be greatest, namely, at 30 years, should be about 34½ pounds; and that of the female at 50, when the weight is generally greatest, at about 26 pounds.<sup>b</sup>

The blood strongly resembles the chyle in its properties;—the great difference consisting in the colour; and the venous blood, and the chyle, and the lymph become equally converted into the same fluid—arterial blood—in the lungs.

*Venous blood*, which chiefly concerns us at present, is contained in all the veins, in the right side of the heart, and in the pulmonary artery;—organs which constitute the apparatus of venous circulation. As drawn from the arm, its appearance is familiar to every one. At first, it seems to be entirely homogeneous; but, after resting for some time, it separates into different portions. The colour of venous blood is much darker than that of arterial;—so dark, indeed, as

Rudolphi, *Grundriss der Physiol.* i. 40; Brandt, in art. Blut, in *Encyclopäd. Wörterb. der Medic. Wissenschaft.* v. 598, Berlin, 1830; and Mr. Ansell, *Lectures on the Physiol. and Pathology of the Blood*, in *Lond. Lancet*, May 16, 1840, p. 257.

<sup>a</sup> The following question and solution are given, in order to show, how the quantity of blood may be estimated in the manner proposed by Valentin.

A portion of blood, (=1190 grains,) drawn from a dog, yielded 24.54 per cent. of solid matter. After injecting 10,905 grains of water into the blood-vessels, a portion of blood drawn yielded 21.86, (or, by another trial, 21.89,) per cent. of solid matter. What was the amount of blood in the body at the commencement of the experiment?

Let  $x$  be the amount of blood after the first experiment. Then, since it contained 24.54 per cent. of solid residue, the amount of solid matter in it was  $.2454x$ .

After injecting the water the whole amount of the diluted blood was  $x + 10905$ ; and, (by the experiment,) the solid matter which it contained was  $=.2186(x + 10905)$ . But the solid matter was of the same amount in both cases. Therefore we have,

$$\begin{aligned} & .2454x = .2186(x + 10905) \\ \text{or,} & \quad (.2454 - .2186)x = .2186 \times 10905 \\ & \quad \quad \quad 2383.8330 \\ \text{or,} & \quad x = \frac{2383.8330}{.0268} = 88945 \text{ gra.} \end{aligned}$$

Add for the blood first drawn . . . . . 1190

And we get . . . . . 90135 gra.

the weight of blood in the body, at the commencement of the experiment.

The ratio 21.89 per cent. gives . . . . . 91269 gra.

And the mean of the two is . . . . . 90702 "

<sup>b</sup> Müller's *Physiology*, by Baly, Book ii. Sect. i.

to have had the epithet *black blood* applied to it. Its smell is faint and peculiar; by some compared to a fragrant garlic odour, but it is *sui generis*; its taste is slightly saline, and also peculiar. It is viscid to the touch; coagulable, and its temperature has been estimated at 98° Fahrenheit; simply, we believe, on the authority of the inventor of that thermometric scale, who marked 96° as blood heat. This is too low by at least three or four degrees. Rudolphi,<sup>a</sup> and the German writers in general, estimate it at 29° of Réaumur, or "from 98° to 100° of Fahrenheit;" whilst, by the French writers in general, its mean temperature is stated at 31° of Réaumur, or 102° of Fahrenheit; Magendie,<sup>b</sup> who is usually very accurate, fixes the temperature of venous blood at 31° of Réaumur, or 102° of Fahrenheit; and that of arterial blood at 32° of Réaumur, or 104° of Fahrenheit. 100° may perhaps be taken as the average. This was the natural temperature of the stomach in the case related by Dr. Beaumont,<sup>c</sup> which has been so often referred to in these pages. In many animals, the temperature is considerably higher. In the sheep it is 102° or 103°; but it is most elevated in birds. In the duck it is 107°. On this subject, however, further information will be given under the head of Calorification.

The specific gravity of the blood is differently estimated by different observers. Hence it is probable, that it varies in different individuals, and in the same individual at different periods. Compared with water its mean specific gravity has been estimated, by some, to be as 1·0527, by others, as 1·0800, to 1·0000. It is stated, however, to have been found as high as 1·126; and, in disease, as low as 1·022. It has, moreover, been conceived, that the effect of disease is, invariably, to make it lighter; and that the more healthy the individual, the greater is the specific gravity of the blood; but our information on this point is vague. That it is not always the same in health is proved by the discrepancy of observers. Boyle estimated it at 1·041; Martine, at 1·045; Jurin, at 1·054; Muschenbroek, at 1·056; Denis, at 1·059; Senac, at 1·082; and Berzelius, at from 1·052 to 1·126;<sup>d</sup> J. Müller, at from 1·0527 to 1·057; Mandl, at from 1·050 to 1·059; and Dr. G. O. Rees, at from 1·057 to 1·060. In a large number of experiments made upon the blood of man, the ox, and the horse, M. Simon<sup>e</sup> found it to be between 1·051 and 1·058. The average was 1·042, which, he says, corresponds very nearly with the statement of Berzelius. The average may perhaps be stated at 1·050. Nasse says 1·055; Zimmerman, 1·056. A part of the discrepancy may be owing to the specific gravity not having been always taken at the same temperature. Dr. B. Babington found experimentally, that four degrees of temperature corresponded with a difference of ·001 of specific weight: consequently, if one author states the specific gravity of blood at about its circulating temperature—say 98° of Fahr.—while another states it at 60° Fahr.—the usual standard—

<sup>a</sup> Grundriss der Physiologie, i. 143, Berlin, 1821.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 229.

<sup>c</sup> Experiments, &c., on the Gastric Juice, &c., p. 274, Plattsburg, 1833.

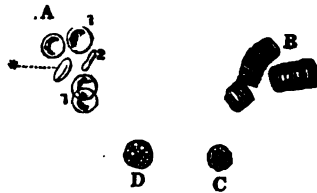
<sup>d</sup> Burdach, Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, iv. 15, Leipz. 1832.

<sup>e</sup> Animal Chemistry, Sydenham edition, p. 100, Lond. 1845.

the former will make it .0095 lighter than the latter.<sup>a</sup> The blood of man is thicker, and at least one-thousandth heavier than that of woman.<sup>b</sup>

When blood is examined with a microscope of high magnifying power, it appears to be composed of numerous, minute, *red particles* or *corpuscles*, commonly called *red globules*, *blood corpuscles*, and *blood disks*, suspended in the serum. These red particles have a different shape and dimension, according to the nature of the animal. In the mammalia, they are circular; and, in birds and cold-blooded animals, elliptical. In all animals, they are affirmed, by some observers, to be flattened, and marked in the centre with a luminous point, of a shape analogous to the general shape of the globule. Professor Giacomoni<sup>c</sup> of Padua, has, however, affirmed, that the red globules swimming in serum,—which have been described by so many writers on the circulating fluid,—exist only in their imaginations. As in every case which rests on microscopic observation, the greatest discrepancy prevails here, not only as regards the shape, but the size of the globules. These were first noticed by Malpighi,<sup>d</sup> and were afterwards more minutely examined by Leeuwenhoek,<sup>e</sup> who at first described them correctly enough, in general terms; but subsequently became hypothetical, and advanced the fantasy, that the red particles are composed of a series of globular bodies, descending in regular gradations; each of the red particles being supposed to be composed of six particles of serum; a particle of serum of six particles of lymph, &c. Totally devoid of foundation, as the whole notion was, it was implicitly believed for a considerable period, even until the time when Haller wrote. Hewson<sup>f</sup> described the globules as consisting of a solid centre, surrounded by a vesicle, filled with a fluid; and to be “as flat as a guinea.” Hunter,<sup>g</sup> on the other hand, did not regard them as solid bodies, but as liquids, possessing a central attraction, which determines their shape. Della Torre<sup>h</sup> supposed them to be a kind of disk or ring, pierced in the centre; whilst Monro conceived them to be circular, flattened bodies, like coins, with a dark spot in the centre, which he thought was not owing to a perforation, as Della Torre had imagined, but to a depression. Cavallo,<sup>i</sup> again, con-

Fig. 220.



*Corpuscles of Human Blood from a vein beaten so as to separate the Fibrin, magnified 900 times.*

A. Blood corpuscles seen, 1, on the flat face. 1. On edge \* a three-quarter view. B. Congeries of blood corpuscles in column. C. A blood corpuscle undergoing change as by exposure to air. D. A lymph corpuscle mingled with the proper blood corpuscle.—(Wagner.)

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Babington, in *Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol.*, parts iv. and v.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. G. E. Day, in Simon, *op. cit.*

<sup>c</sup> *Encyclogr. des Sciences Médicales*, Avril, 1840, p. 529.

<sup>d</sup> Opera, Lond. 1687.

<sup>e</sup> Martine in *Edinb. Med. Essays*, ii. 74; and *Phil. Transact.* for 1694.

<sup>f</sup> *Experimental Inquiries*, part. iii., p. 16, Lond. 1777.

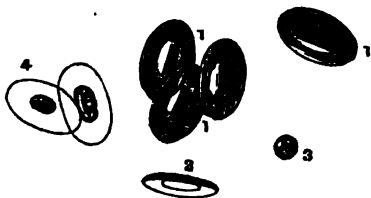
<sup>g</sup> On the Blood, by Palmer, reprinted in *Select Med. Lib.*, p. 63, Philad. 1840.

<sup>h</sup> *Philos. Trans.* for 1765, p. 252.

<sup>i</sup> *An Essay on the Medicinal Properties of Factitious Air, &c.*, p. 237, Lond. 1798.

ceived that all these appearances are deceptive, depending upon the peculiar modification of the rays of light, as affected by the form of the particle; and he concluded, that they are simple spheres. Amici found them of two kinds, both with angular margins; but, in the one, the centre was depressed on both sides; whilst, in the other, it was elevated. The observations of Dr. Young,<sup>a</sup> of Sir Everard Home and Mr. Bauer,<sup>b</sup> and of MM. Prévost and Dumas,<sup>c</sup> accord chiefly

Fig. 221.



*Blood Corpuscles of Rana esculenta.*

1, 1, 1, 2. Blood corpuscles. 3. Seen edge-wise. 3. Lymph corpuscle. 4. Altered by dilute acetic acid.—(Wagner.)

with those of Hewson. All these gentlemen consider the red particles to be composed of a central globule, which is transparent and whitish, and of a red envelope, which is less transparent. Still more recently, however, Dr. Hodgkin and Mr. Lister,<sup>d</sup> have denied that they are spherical, and that they consist of a central nucleus enclosed in a vesicle. They affirm, on the authority of a microscope, which, on comparison, was found equal to a cele-

brated one, taken a few years ago to Great Britain by Professor Amici,<sup>e</sup> that the particles of human blood appear to consist of circular, flattened, transparent cakes, their thickness being about  $\frac{1}{17}$ th part of their diameter. These, when seen singly, appear to be nearly or quite colourless. Their edges are rounded, and being the thickest part, occasion a depression in the middle, which exists on both surfaces. The view of these gentlemen, consequently, appears to resemble that of Monro.

Amidst this discordance, it is difficult to know which view to adopt.<sup>f</sup> The belief in their consisting of circular, flattened, transparent bodies, with a depression in the centre, and that they consist of an external envelope and of a central nucleus, the former of which is red and gives colour to the blood, has had, perhaps, the greatest weight of authority in its favour. The nucleus has appeared to be devoid of colour, and seems to be independent of the envelope; as, when the latter is destroyed, the central portion preserves its original shape. The nucleus is much smaller than the envelope, being, according to Dr. Young, only about one-third the length, and one-half the breadth of the entire particle. According to Sir Everard Home,<sup>g</sup> the globules,

<sup>a</sup> Introduct. to Med. Literature, p. 545.

<sup>b</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1811-1818; and Lectures on Comp. Anat., iii. 4, Lond. 1823.

<sup>c</sup> Annales de Chimie, &c., xxiii. 50, 90; and Journal of Science and Arts, xvi. 115.

<sup>d</sup> Philosoph. Magazine and Annals of Philosophy, ii. 130, Lond. 1827; also, Hodgkin, Catalogue of the Preparations in the Anatomical Museum of Guy's Hospital, introd. to sect. xi., P. i., Lond. 1829.

<sup>e</sup> Edinb. Medical and Surgical Journal, xvi. 120.

<sup>f</sup> See, on this subject, Dr. Paine, Medical and Physiological Commentaries, vol. i, Appendix on the Microscope, p. 899, New York, 1840; Mr. Paget, British and For. Med. Rev., July, 1842, p. 260; and Mr. T. Wharton Jones, British and For. Med. Review, October, 1842, p. 585.

<sup>g</sup> Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, iii. 4, and v. 100, London, 1828.

when enveloped in the colouring matter, are  $\frac{1}{17000}$ th part of an inch in diameter, requiring 2,890,000 to a square inch; but when deprived of their colouring matter, they appear to be  $\frac{1}{30000}$ th part of an inch in diameter, requiring 4,000,000 of globules to a square inch. From these measurements, the globules, when deprived of their colouring matter, are not quite one-fifth smaller. The views of MM. Prévost and Dumas, who have investigated the subject with extreme care and signal ingenuity, are deserving of great attention. They conceive the blood to consist essentially of serum, in which a quantity of red particles is suspended; that each of these particles consists of an external red vesicle, which encloses, in its centre, a colourless globule; that during the progress of coagulation, the vesicle bursts, and permits the central globule to escape; that, on losing their envelope, the central globules are attracted together; that they are disposed to arrange themselves in lines and fibres; that these fibres form a network, in the meshes of which they mechanically entangle a quantity of both the serum and the colouring matter; that these latter substances may be removed by draining, and by ablution in water; that, when this is done, there remains only pure fibrin; and that, consequently, fibrin consists of an aggregation of the central globules of the red particles, while the general mass, that constitutes the crassamentum or clot, is composed of the entire particle. So far this seems satisfactory; but, we have seen, Dr. Hodgkin does not recognise the existence of external vesicle, or of central globule; and he affirms, contrary to the notion of Sir Everard Home and others, that the particles are disposed to coalesce in their entire state. This is best seen, when the blood is viewed between two slips of glass. Under such circumstances, the following appearances are distinctly perceptible. When human blood, or that of any other animal having circular particles, is examined in this manner, considerable agitation is, at first, seen to take place among the particles; but, as this subsides, they apply themselves to each other by their broad surfaces, and form piles or rouleaux, which are sometimes of considerable length. These rouleaux often again combine amongst themselves,—the end of one being attached to the side of another,—producing at times, very curious ramifications. (See Fig. 220, v.)

The belief in the particles being flattened disks is now generally received; and the form of the disk is found to be altered by various substances. Its external envelope admits readily the endosmose of fluids, so that, if placed in water, they may assume a truly globular shape. In examining the blood, consequently, it is advisable to dilute it with a fluid of as nearly as possible the same character as the serum. In the particles of the blood of the frog—as represented in Fig. 221—a nucleus is observed projecting somewhat from the central portion: this is rendered extremely distinct by the action of acetic acid, which dissolves the rest of the particle, and renders the nucleus more opaque. It then appears to consist of a granular substance.\*

\* Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 570, Lond. 1842; see, also, Dr. G. O. Rees, and Mr. S. Lane, in *Gay's Hospital Reports*, No. xiii. Oct. 1841; and in *Ranking's Abstract*, loc. cit.

The vesicular character of the red corpuscles has been clearly shown by Dr. G. O. Rees,\* from the readiness with which they become collapsed or distended by increasing or diminishing the specific gravity of the medium in which they float. In order to collapse the corpuscles, a solution of sp. gr. 1.060 is sufficient, but a solution of 1.070 or more is required to produce a decided effect. Solutions cease to distend the corpuscles when of sp. gr. 1.050 to 1.055, and to distend them well a solution of 1.015 or 1.010 is desirable. He has, moreover, established, that the red colouring matter of the corpuscle is seated, not in the envelope, but in the fluid within the vesicle, and that the envelopes themselves are white and colourless membranes. This is shown by increasing the specific gravity of the liquid in which the corpuscles float, the result of which is the escape by exosmose of the red coloured fluid from within the corpuscles; and again by applying water to the corpuscles, and so inducing endosmose, the vesicles become distended and burst, their colouring matter mixes with the water, and their envelopes subside to the bottom of the vessel, forming a white layer.

Microscopical discordances are no less evidenced by the estimates, which have been made of the size of the red globules; yet all are adduced on the faith of positive admeasurements. Leaving out of view the older, and, consequently, it might be presumed, less accurate observations, the following table will show their diameter in human blood, on the authority of some of the most eminent microscopic observers of more recent times.

Sir E. Home and Bauer, with colouring matter, . . . . .	} 1700th part of an inch.
Eller, . . . . .	1030
Sir E. Home and Bauer, without colouring matter, . . . . .	} 2000
Jurin, . . . . .	3000
Müller, . . . . .	2300 to 3100
Mandl, . . . . .	3525 to 3175
Hodgkin, Lister, and Rudolphi, . . . . .	3000
Sprengel, . . . . .	3000 to 3300
Cavallo, . . . . .	3000 to 4000
Donné, . . . . .	3175 to 3175
Blumenbach and Sénac, . . . . .	3330
Tabor, . . . . .	3800
Milne Edwards, . . . . .	3700
Wagner, . . . . .	3600
Kater, . . . . .	4000 to 5000
Prévost and Dumas, . . . . .	4075
Haller, Wollaston, and Weber, . . . . .	5000
Young, . . . . .	5000

The blood of different animals is found to differ greatly in the relative quantity of the red globules it contains, the number seeming to

\* Ranking's Half-yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences, vol. i., Jan. to June, 1845, p. 250.

<sup>b</sup> See, on this subject, Burdach, *Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, iv. 21, Leipz. 1832. See, also, Ansell, *Lectures on the Physiology and Pathology of the Blood*, in *Lond. Lancet*, Dec. 7, 1839, p. 380, and Donné, *Cours de Microscopie*, p. 62, Paris, 1844.

bear a pretty exact ratio with the temperature of the animal. The higher the natural temperature, the greater the proportion of particles; and arterial always contains a much greater proportion than venous blood.

The blood corpuscles of the greater part of the mammalia have the same shape as those of man; but their size varies greatly in different families. It would appear, from the researches of Mandl,<sup>a</sup> that of the mammalia the elephant has the largest globules, ( $\frac{1}{100}$ th of a millimetre,) and the ruminantia the smallest; that the family of camels is the only one, whose corpuscles are not round like those of the other mammalia, but elliptical like those of birds, reptiles, and fishes.<sup>b</sup>

The chemical constitution of the blood corpuscles is not definitely settled. Two proximate principles have been discovered in them—*hæmatosin* and *globulin*—*hæmatoglobulin*, of Simon. The former, as mentioned hereafter, has been supposed to be of the colouring matter. The latter, which differs from the globulin of Laënnec,—an impure hæmatosin mingled with some albumen,—is the main constituent of the globules, and is the same as the *blood-casein* of Simon. It has not been separated, but is presumed to differ but little in its properties from protein. They are supposed to be produced originally in the germinal membrane of the embryo; but throughout the remainder of existence, they are formed in the blood from the chyle.<sup>c</sup>

The origin of the red corpuscles is by no means settled. Normally, they are not found outside the vessels; and are manifestly not inservient to nutrition, being connected, in all probability, as is shown elsewhere, with the functions of respiration and calorification. It is not determined whether they are capable of reproduction or possess an independent vitality. Dr. Carpenter,<sup>d</sup> indeed, thinks that there can now be no reasonable doubt, that they are to be regarded as nucleated cells, conformable in general character with the isolated cells that constitute the whole of the simplest plants, having each an independent life of its own, and therefore the power of reproduction; and such is the view of Dr. Martin Barry and other microscopists. Wagner, Gulliver, and others,<sup>e</sup> from observation of the blood of the batrachia, ascribe their origin to the colourless corpuscles to be mentioned presently, which, when fully developed, they consider may become red blood corpuscles; whilst Dr. Carpenter strenuously maintains, that there is an entire functional as well as structural difference between the red and the colourless corpuscles of the blood of the vertebrata.<sup>f</sup> Recent observations by Dr. G. O. Rees<sup>g</sup> lead him to

<sup>a</sup> Manuel d'Anatomie générale, p. 246, Paris, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Op. citat. and Annales des Sciences Naturelles, 1824 and 1825. See, on the blood corpuscles of different animals, Bordaeh, op. cit. p. 21; Gulliver, Appendix to Gerber's Elements of the General and Minute Anatomy of Man and the Mammalia, Lond. 1842; Simon, Animal Chemistry, Sydenham edition, p. 103, Lond. 1845; and Hobson, Annales des Sciences Naturelles, Janv., 1845, cited in Ranking's Abstract, vol. i., part i., p. 253, Amer. edit., New York, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Wagner, Elements of Physiology, by Willis, § 96, Lond. 1842.

<sup>d</sup> Principles of Human Physiology, 2d edit., p. 499, London, 1844.

<sup>e</sup> V. Bruns, Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen, s. 140, Braunschweig, 1841.

<sup>f</sup> See M. Barry, Philos. Transact. 1842; Donné, Cours de Microscopie, Paris, 1844; T. Wharton Jones, Proceedings of the Royal Society, No. 56, Lond. 1843, and V. Bruns, op. cit., s. 52, Braunschweig, 1841.

<sup>g</sup> Ranking, Half-yearly Abstract, Jan. and July, 1845, Amer. edit. p. 251.

infer, that they multiply by division: from examining a portion of blood, kept at about its natural temperature, he observed the corpuscles assume an hour-glass form, which increasing eventually divided each corpuscle into two unequal-sized circular bodies. These, when treated with a strong saline solution, underwent the same exosmotic changes as observed in common blood corpuscles.

In addition to the red globules, white corpuscles are observed in the blood. These were noticed by Müller in the blood of frogs; and by Mandl<sup>a</sup> in that of the mammalia. They are small, colourless corpuscles, finely granulated; insoluble in water, and strongly refracting light. According to Mandl, they may be separated into two species,—some round, and containing two or three granules, which become more evident when they are treated with acetic acid: these are the true lymph globules, described already (vol. i., p. 629); the others, generally also round; sometimes oblong; and at others irregular; the edges slightly notched; and the surface finely granulated. They appear to be composed of a multitude of small molecules, from  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th to  $\frac{1}{1200}$ th of a millimètre in diameter: some are also found single. These globules are seen forming under the microscope, when the blood, placed between two glasses, is attentively examined. They are, in Mandl's opinion, produced by the coagulation of the fibrin, and hence they are called by him *fibrinous globules*. Recently, however, he has abandoned this name, "because it rests on a chemical character, that requires confirmation; and because it is not drawn from anatomical characters, which ought chiefly to fix the attention of the microscopist." He now terms them *white granulated corpuscles*.<sup>b</sup> These are the *globulins* of M. Donné, and are considered by him<sup>c</sup> to be the first elements of the blood corpuscles.

Dr. Barry and Mr. Addison think, that the colourless corpuscles,—which have generally been regarded as lymph corpuscles—are formed from the central portion of the blood corpuscles: they consider them to hold an intermediate position between the true red corpuscles, and the greatly modified forms of corpuscles, which, in their view, are the basis of the tissues, as well as of pus and other globules. The most probable opinion, however, is that the white corpuscles of the blood are identical with the lymph and chyle corpuscles; and all, in the opinion of Dr. Carpenter,<sup>d</sup> are connected with the elaboration of plastic fibrin, which must be constantly drawn off by the nutritive processes, and therefore require to be reproduced. His arguments on this head are certainly forcible. It was first observed by Wagner,\* that whilst the colourless corpuscles are met with in the nutritious fluids of all animals that possess a distinct circulation, red corpuscles are restricted to the vertebrata. The truth of this has been confirmed by Dr. Carpenter, who infers from it, that the function of the colourless corpuscles must be of a general character, and intimately connected with the nutritious properties of the circulating fluid; whilst

<sup>a</sup> Gazette Médicale, 1837; and Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 252, Paris, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 554, Paris, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Cours de Microscopie, p. 86, Paris, 1845.

<sup>d</sup> Op. cit., 2d edit., p. 506, Lond., 1844.

\* Op. cit.



the function of the red corpuscles must be of a limited character, being only required in one division of the animal kingdom. One of the strongest arguments, however, in favour of the function of the white corpuscles mentioned above, is the connexion between the generation of white corpuscles in the blood, and the production of fibrin in the inflammatory process. This increase is evidently the result of the local inflammation, and is observed to commence before the occurrence of any constitutional phenomena. The microscopic observations of Messrs. Addison,<sup>a</sup> Williams,<sup>b</sup> Gulliver, and others, have established, that a great accumulation of white corpuscles takes place in the vessels of an inflamed part,—partly owing to an attraction of the corpuscles towards the seat of inflammation, partly, they were satisfied, by an actual reproduction of fresh corpuscles, which must have been owing either to their own power of generating themselves, or to some change in the blastema or fluid of circulation in the part, which favoured a more abundant production of them. Dr. Carpenter is a believer in the first mode of production; and certainly his view, that the production of fibrin in the blood is closely connected with the developement of white corpuscles, has strong arguments in its favour. Still the subject requires further investigation.<sup>c</sup>

When blood is drawn from a vessel, and left to itself, it exhales, so long as it is warm, a fetid vapour consisting of water and animal matter, of a nature not known.<sup>d</sup> This vapour is what has been called the *halitus* of the blood,—by Plenck, the *gas animale sanguinis*, which he conceives to be composed of carbon and hydrogen, and to be inservient to many supposititious uses in the economy. The odour exhaled by the blood would appear to preserve the same general characters under all circumstances. After a time, the blood coagulates, giving off, at the same time, it has been said, a quantity of carbonic acid gas. This disengagement is not evident, when the blood is suffered to remain exposed to the air, except, perhaps, by the apertures or canals formed by its passage through the clot; but it can be collected by placing the blood under the receiver of an air-pump, and exhausting the air. On this fact, however, observers do not all accord. The experiments of Vogel,<sup>e</sup> Brande,<sup>f</sup> Sir E. Home,<sup>g</sup> and Sir C. Scudamore,<sup>h</sup> are in favour of such evolution; and the last gentleman conceives it even to be an essential part of the process; but other distinguished experimenters have not been able to detect it. Neither Dr. John Davy,<sup>i</sup> nor Dr. Duncan, Jr., nor Dr. Christison, could procure it during the coagulation of the blood. Dr. Turner<sup>j</sup> suggests that the

<sup>a</sup> Med. Gazette, Dec., 1840; Jan. and March, 1841.

<sup>b</sup> Principles of Medicine, Amer. edit., by Dr. Clymer, pp. 214, 215, Philad., 1844.

<sup>c</sup> See, on this point, Carpenter, Human Physiology, Amer. edit., p. 419, Philad., 1843; and Andral, Hématologie Pathologique, p. 33, Paris, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Ansell, Lectures on the Blood, Lancet, Jan. 18, 1840, p. 608.

<sup>e</sup> Annales de Chimie, t. xciii.

<sup>f</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1818, p. 181.

<sup>g</sup> Lectures, &c., iii. 8.

<sup>h</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1820, p. 6; and an Essay on the Blood, p. 107, Lond., 1824.

<sup>i</sup> Phil. Trans., for 1823, p. 506; and Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., xxix. 253. Since that time, however, Dr. Davy has succeeded in extricating it both from venous and arterial blood. See his Researches, Physiological and Anatomical, Dunglison's Amer. Med. Lib. edit., p. 82, Philad., 1840.

<sup>j</sup> Elements of Chemistry, 5th edit., by Dr. Bauche, p. 607, Philad., 1835.

appearance of the carbonic acid, in the experiments of Vogel, Brande, and Scudamore, might easily have been occasioned by casual exposure to the atmosphere, previous to the blood being placed under the receiver; but we have no reason for believing, that this source of fallacy was not guarded against as much by one set of experimenters as by the other. Our knowledge on this point is confined then to the fact, that, by some, carbonic acid gas has been found exhaled during the process of coagulation;—by others, not. More recent experiments, by Stromeyer,<sup>a</sup> and by Gmelin, Tiedemann, and Mitscherlich,<sup>b</sup> would seem to show, that the blood does not give off any free carbonic acid, but that it holds a certain quantity in a state of combination; and that this combination is intimate is shown by the fact, mentioned by Müller,<sup>c</sup> that blood, artificially impregnated with carbonic acid, yields no appreciable quantity of the gas, when subjected to the air-pump. M. Magnus,<sup>d</sup> however, found, in his experiments, that not only venous, but arterial blood, contains carbonic acid, oxygen, and azote, and that, as regards carbonic acid, arterial blood contains more than venous; and he accounts for the failure of those, who have attempted to elicit carbonic acid from venous blood by the air-pump, to the air in the receiver not having been sufficiently rarefied. Prof. C. H. Schultz, of Berlin—who believes that the vesicles of the blood, in a perfect state, are composed of a membranous covering, whose interior is filled with an aeriform fluid in the midst of which is found the nucleus—succeeded in so evident a manner by the following simple method in extracting air from the blood, “that it is impossible to doubt there exists a great quantity of air in the vesicles.” He completely filled a bottle with warm blood flowing immediately from the vein of a horse, and hermetically sealed the bottle so that the cork was plunged into the blood, thus absolutely preventing the contact of air. The blood, on cooling, diminished in volume, and thus produced a perfect vacuum in the upper part of the bottle; and in proportion as this took place, bubbles of air arose from the blood and filled the vacuum. Chemical analysis of this air demonstrated that it was carbonic acid. In arterial blood, he found oxygen mixed with more or less carbonic acid.<sup>e</sup> The experiments of Dr. Stevens,<sup>f</sup> and of Dr. Robert E. Rogers,<sup>g</sup> also exhibit, that carbonic acid is contained in the blood. The latter observer found, when a portion of venous blood was placed in a bag of some membrane, and the bag was immersed in an atmosphere of gas—as of oxygen, hydrogen, or nitrogen—that carbonic acid was pretty freely evolved.

Whilst the blood is circulating in the vessels, it consists of *liquor sanguinis* and red corpuscles; but during coagulation, it separates

<sup>a</sup> Schweigger's *Journal für Chemie*, u. s. w. Lxiv. 105.

<sup>b</sup> Tiedemann und Treviranus, *Zeitschrift für Physiologie*, B. v. H. i.; Geddings's *North Amer. Archives* for July and August, 1835; and *British and Foreign Med. Review*, No. 9, p. 590, April, 1836.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 329.

<sup>d</sup> *Annales de Chimie et de Physique*, Nov., 1837. See, also, Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 541, London, 1842.

<sup>e</sup> *London Lancet*, August 10, 1839, p. 713.

<sup>f</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 714.

<sup>g</sup> *Philos. Transact.*, for 1834–5, p. 334. See, also, Dr. M. Edwards, in article “Blood,” *Cyclopædia of Anat. and Phys.* Part. iv. p. 404, London, 1836.

<sup>h</sup> *American Journal of the Med. Sciences*, August, 1836, p. 283.

into two distinct portions; a yellowish liquid, called the serum; and a red solid, known by the name of the *clot*, *cruor*, *crassamentum*, *coagulum*, *placenta*, *insula* or *hepar sanguinis*. The proportion of the serum to the crassamentum varies greatly in different animals, and in the same animal at different times, according to the state of the system. The latter is more abundant in healthy, vigorous animals, than in those that have been impoverished by depletion, low living, or disease. Sir Charles Scudamore<sup>a</sup> found, by taking the mean of twelve experiments, that the crassamentum amounted to 53·307 per cent. in healthy blood.

The difference between living and coagulated blood may be expressed in a tabular form as follows:

Living Blood.	{	<i>Liquor Sanguinis</i> ,	{	Water, Various salts, Fatty matters, Extractive do. Albumen, Fibrin,	}	Serum,	}	Coagulated Blood.
		<i>Red Corpuscles</i> ,				Crassamentum, <sup>b</sup>		

The *serum* is viscous, transparent, of a slightly yellowish hue, and alkaline, owing to the presence of a little free soda. Its smell and taste resemble those of the blood. Its average specific gravity has been estimated at about 1·027.<sup>c</sup> But on this point, also, observers differ. Dr. John Davy<sup>d</sup> found it to vary from 1·020 to 1·031. Martine, Muschenbroek, Jurin, and Haller, from 1·022 to 1·037; Berzelius and Wagner,<sup>e</sup> from 1·027 to 1·029; Christison,<sup>f</sup> from 1·029 to 1·031; Lauer,<sup>g</sup> from 1·009 to 1·011; whilst Thackrah<sup>h</sup> found the extremes to be 1·004 and 1·080. At 158° of Fahrenheit, it coagulates; forming at the same time, numerous cells, containing a fluid, which oozes out from the coagulum of the serum, and is called the *serosity*. It contains, according to Bostock, about  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of its weight of animal matter, together with a little chloride of sodium. Of this animal matter, a portion is albumen, which may be readily coagulated by means of galvanism; but a small quantity of some other principle is present, which differs from albumen and gelatin, and to which Marcet<sup>i</sup> gave the name *muco-extractive matter*, and Bostock,<sup>j</sup> *uncoagulable matter of the blood*—as a term expressive of its most characteristic property. Serum preserves its property of coagulating, even when largely diluted with water. According to Brande,<sup>k</sup> it is almost pure liquid

<sup>a</sup> Roget's Outlines of Physiology, American edition, by the author, § 385, Philad., 1839.

<sup>b</sup> B. Babington, art. Blood, in Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., Lond. 1836; T. W. Jones, Brit. and For. Med. Review, Oct. 1842, p. 588; Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 255, Paris, 1843; and V. Bruns, Lehrbuch der Allgemeinen Anatomie des Menschen, s. 41. Braunschweig, 1841.

<sup>c</sup> Bostock's Physiology, &c., edit. cit. p. 287; Marcet, in Medico-Chirurg. Trans. iii. 363; and Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 230. Paris, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Recherches, Physiological and Anatomical, Dunglison's Amer. Med. Lib. edit. p. 11. Philad. 1840.

<sup>e</sup> Elements of Physiology, by R. Willis, § 103. Lond. 1842.

<sup>f</sup> On Granular Degeneration of the Kidneys, p. 61, Lond. 1839; or Dunglison's American Medical Library edition. Philad. 1839.

<sup>g</sup> Hecker's Annalen, xviii. 393; and Burdach, op. cit. iv. 29.

<sup>h</sup> Inquiry into the Nature and Properties of the Blood, &c. Lond. 1819.

<sup>i</sup> Medico-Chirurg. Transact. ii. 364.

<sup>j</sup> Op. cit. p. 292.

<sup>k</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1809, p. 373.

albumen, united with soda, which keeps it fluid. Consequently, he affirms, any reagent, which takes away the soda, will produce coagulation; and by the agency of caloric, the soda may transform a part of the albumen into mucus. The action of the galvanic pile coagulates the serum, and forms globules in it analogous to those of the blood.

From the analysis of serum, by Berzelius,<sup>a</sup> it appears to consist in 1000 parts;—of water, 903; albumen, 80; substances soluble in alcohol,—as lactate of soda and extractive matter, chlorides of sodium and potassium, 10; substances soluble in water,—as soda and animal matter, and phosphate of soda, 4; loss, 3. Marcet assigns it the following composition:—water, 900 parts; albumen, 86·8; chlorides of potassium and sodium, 6·6; muco-extractive matter, 4; carbonate of soda, 1·65; sulphate of potassa, 0·35, and earthy phosphates, 0·60;—a result, which closely corresponds with that of Berzelius, who states that the *extractive matter* of Marcet is lactate of soda, united with animal matter. One of the most exact analyses is by M. Lecanu.<sup>b</sup> According to him, 1000 parts contain,—water, 906 parts; albumen, 78; animal matter, soluble in water and alcohol, 1·69; albumen combined with soda, 2·10; crystallizable fatty matter, 1·20; oily matter, *serolin*, 1; chlorides of sodium and potassium, 6; subcarbonate and phosphate of soda, and sulphate of potassa, 2·10; phosphate of lime, magnesia and iron, with subcarbonate of lime and magnesia, 0·91; loss, 1.<sup>c</sup> Occasionally, the serum presents a whitish hue, which has given rise to the opinion that it contains chyle; but it would seem that this is fatty matter, and that it is always present. In the serum of the blood of spirit-drinkers, Dr. Traill found a considerable portion of this substance, which has been considered to favour the notion, that the human body may, by intemperance, become preternaturally combustible; and has been used to account for some of the strange cases of *spontaneous combustion*, or rather of *preternatural combustibility*, which are on record. Dr. Christison has likewise met with fat mechanically diffused through the serum, like oil in an emulsion. On one occasion, he procured five per cent. of fat from milky serum, and one per cent. from serum which had the aspect of whey.<sup>d</sup>

The *crassamentum* or *clot* is a solid mass, of a reddish-brown colour, which, when gently washed for some time under a small stream of water, separates into two portions,—colouring matter and fibrin. As soon as the blood is drawn from a vessel, the colouring matter of the red globules leaves the central nucleus free; these then unite, as we have seen, and form a network, containing some of the colouring matter, and many whole globules. By washing the clot in cold water, the free colouring matter and the globules can be removed, and the fibrin will alone remain. When freed from the colouring matter, the fibrin is solid, whitish, insipid, inodorous, heavier than water, and without action on vegetable colours; elastic when moist, and be-

<sup>a</sup> Medico-chirur. Transactions, iii. 231.

<sup>b</sup> Journal de Pharmacie, xvii.; and Annales de Chimie, &c., xlviii. 308.

<sup>c</sup> See, also, Boudet, in Journal de Pharmacie, Juin, 1833; and Annales de Chimie, lii. 337.

<sup>d</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, xvii. 235, and xxxiii. 274.

coming brittle by desiccation. It yields, on distillation, much carbonate of ammonia, and a bulky coal, the ashes of which contain a considerable quantity of phosphate of lime, a little phosphate of magnesia, carbonate of lime, and carbonate of soda. One hundred parts of fibrin, according to Berzelius, consist of carbon, 53.360; oxygen, 19.685; hydrogen, 7.021; azote, 19.934. Fibrin has been designated by various names. It is the *gluten*, *coagulable lymph*, and *fibre of the blood* of different writers. Its specific gravity is said to be greater than that of the serum; but the difference has not been accurately estimated, and cannot be great. The red particles are manifestly, however, heavier than either, as we find them subsiding during coagulation to the lower surface of the clot, when the blood has flowed freely from the orifice in the vein. Fibrin appears to be the most important constituent of the blood. It exists in animals, in which the red particles are absent, and is the basis of the muscular tissue.

The colouring matter of the blood, called, by some, *cruorin*, *hematin*, *hematosin*, *zoo-hematin*, *hemachroin*, *globulin* (of Lecanu), and *rubrin*, has been the subject of anxious investigation with the analytical chemist. We have already remarked, that it resides in distinct particles or globules; and, in the opinion of most observers, in the envelopes of those globules, but, according to Dr. Rees, in the fluid within the vesicular envelope (see page 102). The globules themselves are insoluble in serum, but their colouring principle is dissolved by pure water, acids, alkalies, and alcohol. Raspail<sup>a</sup> asserts, that the globules, or nuclei are entirely soluble in pure water, but MM. Donné and Boudet, who repeated his experiments, declare that they are wholly insoluble, and Müller<sup>b</sup> is of the same opinion. Great uncertainty has always existed regarding the cause of the colour of the globules. As soon as the blood was found to contain iron, the peroxide of which has a red hue, their colour was ascribed to the presence of that metal. Fourcroy and Vauquelin<sup>c</sup> held this opinion, conceiving the iron to be in the state of subphosphate; and they affirmed, that if this salt be dissolved in serum by means of an alkali, the colour of the solution is exactly like that of the blood. Berzelius,<sup>d</sup> however, showed, that the subphosphate of iron cannot be dissolved in serum by means of an alkali, except in very minute quantity; and that this salt, even when rendered soluble by phosphoric acid, communicates a tint quite different from that of the red globules. He found that the ashes of the colouring matter always yield oxide of iron in the proportion of  $\frac{1}{100}$ th of the original mass; whence it was inferred, that iron is somehow or other concerned in the production of the colour; but the experiments of Berzelius did not indicate the state in which that metal exists in the blood. He could not detect its presence by any of the liquid tests.

The views of Berzelius, and the experiments on which they were founded, were not supported by the researches of Mr. Brande.\* He

<sup>a</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 368. Paris, 1833.

<sup>b</sup> Handbuch der Physiologie, Baly's translation, p. 105. Lond. 1838.

<sup>c</sup> System. Chym. ix. 207.

<sup>d</sup> Med. Chir. Trans. iii. 213.

\* Philosophical Transactions for 1812, p. 90.

endeavoured to show, that the colour of the blood does not depend upon iron; for he found the indications of the presence of that metal as considerable in the parts of the blood that are devoid of colour, as in the globules themselves; and in each it was present in such small quantity, that no effect, as a colouring agent, could be expected from it. He supposed that the tint of the red globules is produced by a peculiar, animal colouring principle, capable of combining with metallic oxides. He succeeded in obtaining a compound of the colouring matter of the blood with the oxide of tin; but its best precipitants are the nitrate of mercury and corrosive sublimate. Woollen cloths, impregnated with either of these compounds, and dipped in an aqueous solution of the colouring matter, acquire a permanent red dye, unchangeable by washing with soap. The conclusions of Brande have been supported by Vauquelin,<sup>a</sup> but the fact, connected with the presence of iron, seems to have been decided by many observers. Engelhart<sup>b</sup> demonstrated, that the fibrin and albumen of the blood, when carefully separated from colouring particles, do not contain a trace of iron; whilst he procured iron from the red globules by incineration. He also succeeded in proving the presence of iron in the colouring matter by the liquid tests; for on transmitting a current of chlorine gas through a solution of red globules, the colour entirely disappeared, white flocks were thrown down, and a transparent solution remained, in which the peroxide of iron was discovered by the usual reagents. The results, obtained by Engelhart, as regards the quantity of iron, correspond with those of Berzelius. These facts have since been confirmed by Rose,<sup>c</sup> of Berlin; and Würzer,<sup>d</sup> of Marburg, by pursuing Engelhart's method by liquid tests, has detected the existence of the protoxide of manganese likewise. The proportion of iron does not appear to be more than one-half per cent.; yet, as it is contained only in the colouring matter, there is some reason for believing, that it may be concerned in the coloration of the blood, although probably in the form of oxide. The sulphocyanic acid has been detected in the saliva; and this acid, when united with the peroxide of iron, forms a colour exactly like that of venous blood; so that, it has been presumed, it may be connected with the coloration of the blood, but this is not probable; for Dr. Stevens found, that venous blood is darkened by the sulphocyanic acid.<sup>e</sup> M. Lecanu<sup>f</sup> has subjected the *hematosin* or colouring matter to analysis, and found it to be composed of:—loss, representing the weight of the animal matter, 97.742; subcarbonate of soda, alkaline chlorides, subcarbonates of lime and magnesia, and phosphates of lime and magnesia, 1.724; peroxide of iron, 0.534. The result of his researches induces him to conclude, that the colouring matter is a compound of albumen with

<sup>a</sup> Annales de Chimie et de Physique, tom. i. p. 9.

<sup>b</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, Jan. 1827; and Turner's Chemistry, 5th Amer. edit. p. 605. Philad. 1835.

<sup>c</sup> Poggendorf's Annalen, vii. 81; and Annales de Chimie, &c., xxxiv. 268.

<sup>d</sup> Schweigger's Journal, lviii. 481.

<sup>e</sup> See, on this subject, Hermetadt, in Schweigger's Journ. 1832; J. Möller, op. cit. p. 125, and Brandt, art. Blut, in Encyclopäd. Wörterb. der. Medicinisch. Wissenschaft. v. 606. Berlin, 1830.

<sup>f</sup> Annales de Chimie et de Physique, xlv. 5.

some colouring substance yet unknown. This substance yielded on analysis:—loss, 98.26; peroxide of iron, 1.74; and M. Lecanu suggests, that it may result from the combination of some animal matter with certain ferruginous compounds, analogous to the cyanides.

After all, therefore, our ignorance on this subject is still great; and all that we seem to know is, that the peroxide of iron is contained in the colouring matter of the blood; but it can scarcely be the cause of the colour, for Scherer found, that the iron may be wholly dissolved by the agency of acids, and that the animal matter, boiled afterwards in alcohol, colours the spirit deeply red. Dr. G. O. Rees,\* however, objects to this being received as a conclusive argument against the iron being essential to the formation of the red colour.

The redness of the blood is one of its most obvious characteristics; and we are induced to esteem the change effected in the lungs as regards colour of eminent importance. It is, however, no farther so, than as it indicates the accomplishment of the conversion of venous into arterial blood. There is nothing essential connected with the mere coloration. In the insect, the blood is transparent; in the caterpillar, of a greenish hue; and in the internal vessels of the frog, yellowish. In man, it differs according to numerous circumstances; and the hue of the skin, which is partly dependent upon these differences, thus becomes an index of the state of individual health or disease. In the *morbis cæruleus*, *cyanopathy* or *blue disease*, the whole surface is coloured blue, especially in those parts where the skin is delicate, as in the lips,—owing to a communication existing between the right and left sides of the heart, so that the blood can pass from one to the other without proceeding through the lungs. The appearance, too, of the jaundiced is familiar to all.

The formation of the clot, and its separation from the serum, are manifestly dependent upon the fibrin, which, by assuming the solid state, gives rise to the *coagulation* of the blood;—a phenomenon, which has occasioned much fruitless speculation and experiment; yet, if the views of Raspail<sup>b</sup> were proved to be correct, it would be sufficiently simple. The alkaline character of the blood, and the production of coagulation by a dilute acid leave no doubt, in his mind, that an alkali is the menstruum of the albumen of the blood. The alkaline matter, he thinks, is soda, but more especially ammonia, of which, he says, authors take no account; but whose different salts are evident under the microscope. Now, “the carbonic acid of the atmospheric air, and the carbonic acid, which forms in the blood by its avidity for oxygen, saturate the menstruum of the albumen, which is precipitated as a clot. The evaporation of the ammonia, and, above all, the evaporation of the water of the blood, which issues smoking from the vein, likewise set free an additional quantity of dissolved albumen, and the mass coagulates the more quickly as the blood is less aqueous.”

The process of coagulation is influenced by exposure to the air.

\* Ranking's Abstract, Jan. to July, 1845, p. 251. Amer. edit. New York, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> *Chimie Organique*, p. 373.

Hewson affirmed, that it is promoted by such exposure, but Hunter was of an opposite opinion. If the atmospheric air be excluded,—by filling a bottle completely with recently drawn blood, and closing the orifice with a good stopper,—coagulation is retarded. Yet Sir C. Scudamore mentions the singular fact, that if blood be confined within the exhausted receiver of an air-pump, the coagulation is accelerated; and MM. Gmelin, Tiedemann, and Mitscherlich<sup>a</sup> found that, under such circumstances, both venous and arterial blood coagulated as perfectly as under ordinary circumstances. The presence of air is certainly not essential to the process. Experiments have also been made on the effect produced by different gases on the process of coagulation; but the results have not been such as to afford much information. It is asserted, for example, by some, that it is promoted by carbonic acid, and certain other of the irrespirable gases, and retarded by oxygen: by others, the reverse is affirmed; whilst Davy<sup>b</sup> and M. Schröder van der Kolk<sup>c</sup> inform us, that they could not perceive any difference in the period of the coagulation of venous blood, when it was exposed to azote, nitrous gas, oxygen, nitrous oxide, carbonic acid, hydrocarbon, or atmospheric air.

The time, necessary for coagulation, is affected by temperature. It is promoted by warmth; retarded, but not prevented, by cold. Hewson froze blood, newly drawn from a vein, and afterwards thawed it: it first became fluid, and then coagulated as usual. Hunter made a similar experiment with the like result. It is obviously, therefore, not from simple refrigeration that the blood coagulates. Sir C. Scudamore found, that the blood, which begins to coagulate in four minutes and a half, in a temperature of 53° Fahr., undergoes the same change in two minutes and a half at 98°; and that, which coagulates in four minutes at 98° Fahr., becomes solid in one minute at 120°. On the contrary, the blood, which coagulates firmly in five minutes at 60° Fahr., will remain quite fluid for twenty minutes at the temperature of 40° Fahr., and requires upwards of an hour for complete coagulation. The observations of Gendrin<sup>d</sup> were similar. As a general rule, it would seem, from the experiments of Hewson,<sup>e</sup> Schröder van der Kolk,<sup>f</sup> and Thackrah,<sup>g</sup> that coagulation takes place most readily at the temperature of the body. During the coagulation, a quantity of caloric is disengaged. Fourcroy<sup>h</sup> relates an experiment, in which the thermometer rose no less than 11° during the process; but as certain experiments of Hunter<sup>i</sup> appeared to show,

<sup>a</sup> Tiedemann und Treviranus, *Zeitschrift für Physiol. B. v. Heft i.* and in op. citat. See, also, Mandl, *Archiv. générales de Méd.* ix. 278, Paris, 1840; and Manuel d'Anatomie générale, p. 227, Paris, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Researches, &c., chiefly concerning nitrous oxide, p. 380, Lond. 1800; and Dr. John Davy, *Researches, Physiological and Anatomical*, Duglison's Amer. Med. Libr. edit. p. 48. Philad. 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Dissert. sistens Sang. Coag. Histor. Gröning. p. 81, 1820; and Burdach, op. citat. iv. 37.

<sup>d</sup> Hist. Anatom. des Inflammations, ii. 426, Paris, 1826.

<sup>e</sup> Experiment. Inquiries, i. 19, Lond. 1774.

<sup>f</sup> Op. cit. p. 48.

<sup>g</sup> Inquiry into the Nature, &c. of the Blood, p. 38, Lond. 1819.

<sup>h</sup> Annales de Chimie, xii. 147.

<sup>i</sup> A Treatise on the Blood, &c. p. 27, Lond. 1794.



that no elevation of temperature occurred, the observation of Fourcroy was disregarded. It was, however, confirmed by some experiments of Dr. Gordon,<sup>a</sup> of Edinburgh, in which the evolution of caloric during coagulation was rendered more manifest by moving the thermometer during the formation of the clot, first into the coagulated, and afterwards into the fluid part of the blood: he found, that by this means he could detect a difference of  $6^{\circ}$ ; which continued to be manifested for twenty minutes after the process had commenced. In repeating the experiment on blood, taken from a person labouring under inflammatory fever, the thermometer was found to rise  $12^{\circ}$ . Sir C. Scudamore affirms,<sup>b</sup> that the rate at which the blood cools is distinctly slower than it would be were no caloric evolved; and that he observed the thermometer to rise one degree at the commencement of coagulation. On the other hand, Dr. John Davy,<sup>c</sup> Mr. Thackrah, and Schröder van der Kolk,<sup>d</sup> accord with Mr. Hunter in the belief, that the increase of temperature from this cause, is very slight or null, whilst Raspail asserts that the temperature falls.<sup>e</sup> *Again* we have to deplore the discordance amongst observers; and it will perhaps have struck the reader more than once, that such discordance applies as much to topics of direct observation as to those of a theoretical character. The discrepance, regarding anatomical and physical facts, is even more glaring than that which prevails amongst physiologists in accounting for the corporeal phenomena; a circumstance, which tends to confirm the notion promulgated by one of the most distinguished teachers of his day, (Dr. James Gregory,) that "there are more false facts in medicine, (and the remark might be extended to the collateral or accessory sciences,) than false theories."

There are certain substances, again, which, when added to the blood, prevent or retard its coagulation. Hewson found, that the sulphate of soda, the chloride of sodium, and the nitrate of potassa were amongst the most powerful salts in this respect. The muriate of ammonia and a solution of potassa have the same effect. On the contrary, coagulation is promoted by alum, and by the sulphates of zinc and copper.<sup>f</sup> How these salts act on the fibrin, so as to prevent its particles from coming together, it is not easy to explain. But these are not the only inscrutable circumstances that affect the coagulation of the blood. Many causes of sudden death have been considered to have this result:—lightning and electricity; a blow upon the stomach; injury of the brain; the bites of venomous animals; certain narcotico-acrid vegetable poisons; also, excessive exercise and violent mental emotions, when they suddenly destroy, &c. Many of these affirmations doubtless rest on insufficient proof. Sir C. Scuda-

<sup>a</sup> Annals of Philosophy, vol. iv. 139.

<sup>b</sup> An Essay on the Blood, p. 68, Lond. 1824.

<sup>c</sup> Recherches, Physiological and Anatomical, Duglison's Amer. Med. Libr. edit. p. 6, Philad. 1840.

<sup>d</sup> Müller's Physiology, Baly's translation, p. 98, Lond. 1838.

<sup>e</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 361.

<sup>f</sup> Magendie, Lectures on the Blood, in Lond. Lancet, reprinted in Bell's Select Medical Library, Philad. 1839.

more, for example, asserts that lightning has not this effect. Blood, through which electric discharges were transmitted, coagulated as quickly as that which was not electrified; and in animals killed by the discharge of a powerful galvanic battery, the blood in the veins was always found in a solid state.

M. Mandl has summed up the results of modern experiments on this subject as follows. *First.* The alkalies—potassa, soda, and ammonia—completely prevent coagulation: lime retards it. *Secondly.* The soluble alkaline salts—combinations of soda, potassa, ammonia, magnesia, baryta and lime with carbonic, acetic, nitric, phosphoric, tartaric, citric, boracic, sulphuric and cyanohydric acid—also the chlorides, in very small quantity—favour coagulation. On the other hand, these substances in concentrated solution retard it, and even prevent it entirely. The most active salts are the carbonates; the least so, the combinations of chlorine, and sulphates. 0·007 of carbonate of soda retards coagulation for several hours, whilst the sulphates do not act in the proportion of 14 per 1000. The action of a salt is more marked in proportion as it reddens more the blood; whilst the combinations of chrome, chlorine and iodine do not redden it, and do not prevent its coagulation. When water is added to blood thus liquefied by a salt it coagulates again—the fibrin being precipitated. *Thirdly.* Metallic salts decompose the blood; some causing coagulation; others preventing it. *Fourthly.* Very dilute vegetable acids favour coagulation; when a little more concentrated, they prevent it; and when highly concentrated, they decompose it like the mineral acids. *Fifthly.* The action of the vegetable substances has not been sufficiently studied: some affirm, for instance, that narcotics prevent coagulation; others that they favour it. The same doubt exists in regard to the action of poisons; it is generally believed, however, that they—as well as lightning, a violent discharge of electricity, the instantaneous destruction of the nervous system, &c.—prevent coagulation. *Sixthly.* Very dilute solutions of gum Arabic, sugar, albumen, milk, &c., appear to act only in a mechanical manner by preventing the approximation of the coagulated particles.\*

We shall find, hereafter, that the action of some of these agents has been considered evidence that the blood may be *killed*; and, consequently, that it is possessed of life. All the phenomena, indeed, of coagulation, inexplicable in the present state of our knowledge, have been invoked to prove this position. The preservation of the fluid state, whilst circulating in the vessels—although agitation, when it is out of the body, does not prevent its coagulation—has been regarded of itself, sufficient evidence in favour of the doctrine. Dr. Bostock,<sup>b</sup> indeed, asserts, that perhaps the most obvious and consistent view of the subject is, that fibrin has a natural disposition to assume the solid form, when no circumstance prevents it from exercising this inherent tendency. As it is gradually added to the blood, particle by

\* For an account of the experiments of J. Hunter, John Davy, Prater, and Sir C. Scudamore, on the effects of various agents on the coagulation of the blood, see Mr. Ansell, Lect. 7th, in *Med. Lancet*, 1840. See, also, Simon, *Animal Chemistry*, Sydenham edit. p. 116, Lond. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> *Physiology*, 3d edit., p. 271, Lond. 1836.

particle, whilst that fluid is in a state of agitation in the vessels, it has no opportunity, he conceives, of concreting; but when it is suffered to lie at rest, either within or without the vessels, it is then liable to exercise its natural tendency. It is not our intention, at present, to enter into the subject of the vitality of the blood. The general question will be considered in a subsequent part of this work. We may merely observe, that, by the generality of physiologists, the blood is presumed, either to be endowed with a principle of vitality, or to receive from the organs, with which it comes in contact, a vital impression or influence, which, together with the constant motion, counteracts its tendency to coagulation.\* Even Magendie,<sup>b</sup>—who is unusually and properly chary in having recourse to this method of explaining the *notum per ignotius*,—affirms, that instead of referring the coagulation of the blood to any physical influence, it should be considered as essentially a vital process; or, in other words, as affording a demonstrative proof that the blood is endowed with life.

Vauquelin discovered in the blood a considerable quantity of fatty matter, of a soft consistence, which he, at first, considered to be fat; but Chevreul,<sup>c</sup> after careful investigation, declared it to be identical with the matter of the brain and nerves, and to form the singular compound of an *azoted fat*. Cholesterin has been detected in it by Gmelin,<sup>d</sup> and by Boudet.<sup>e</sup> Prévost and Dumas, Ségalas, and others, have likewise demonstrated the existence of urea in the blood of animals, from which the kidneys had been removed. Chemical analysis is, indeed, adding daily to our stock of information on this matter; and is exhibiting to us, that many of the substances, which compose the tissues, exist in the very state in the blood in which we meet with them in the tissues. This is signally shown by the following table by Simon<sup>f</sup> of the constituents found to exist in the blood of man, and certain mammalia.

Protein compounds.	{ Water. Fibrin. Albumen. Globulin.			{ Iron (peroxide). Albuminate of soda. Phosphates of lime, magnesia, and soda. Sulphate of potassa. Carbonates of lime, magnesia, and soda. Chlorides of sodium and potassium. Lactate of soda. Oleate and margarate of soda.
Colouring matters.	{ Hæmatin. Hæmapheïn. Alcohol-extract.		Salts.	{ Oxygen. Nitrogen. Carbonic acid. Sulphur. Phosphorus.
Extractive matters.	{ Spirit-extract. Water-extract. Cholesterin. Serolin.		Gases.	
Fats.	{ Red and white solid fats containing phosphorus. Margoric acid. Oleic acid.			

The analyses of M. Lecanu<sup>g</sup> are generally regarded as among the

\* J. Müller's Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 97, Lond. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 234.

<sup>c</sup> Bostock's Physiology, p. 294.

<sup>d</sup> Chimie, iv. 1163.

<sup>e</sup> Journ de Pharmacie, Paris, 1833, and Annales de Chimie, lii. 337.

<sup>f</sup> Animal Chemistry, Sydenham edit., p. 166, Lond. 1845.

<sup>g</sup> Annales de Chimie et de Physique, xlviii. 306, and Journal de Pharmacie, Sept. 1831.

For an analysis of the Blood by Boudet, see Journal de Pharmacie, Juin, 1833.

best. Blood obtained by him from two stout healthy men was found to be composed as follows :

Water,	- - - - -	780-145	785-590
Fibrin,	- - - - -	2-100	3-565
Albumen,	- - - - -	65-090	69-415
Colouring matter (globules),	- - - - -	133-000	119-626
Fatty crystallizable matter,	- - - - -	2-430	4-300
Oily matter,	- - - - -	1-310	2-270
Extractive matter soluble in water and alcohol,	- - - - -	1-790	1-920
Albumen combined with soda,	- - - - -	1-265	2-010
Chloride of sodium,	}	8-370	7-304
potassium,			
Carbonates	} of potassa and soda,	2-100	1-414
Phosphates			
Sulphates			
Carbonates of lime and magnesia,	}	2-400	2-586
Phosphates of lime, magnesia, and iron,			
Peroxide of iron,	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
Loss,	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
		100-000	100 000

On these analyses, Dr. Prout<sup>a</sup> has remarked, that *gelatin* is never found in the blood, or any product of glandular secretion, and he adds, that a given weight of gelatin contains at least three or four per cent. less carbon than an equal weight of albumen. Hence, the production of gelatin from albumen, he conceives, must be a *reducing* process. We have seen, under the head of Respiration, what application he makes of these considerations.<sup>b</sup>

Recent researches on the ashes of the blood by M. Enderlin,<sup>c</sup> in the laboratory of Giessen, give the following as the quantitative analyses in 100 parts from human blood :

Tri-basic phosphate of soda,	- - - - -	22-1
Chloride of sodium,	- - - - -	54-769
potassium,	- - - - -	4-416
Sulphate of soda,	- - - - -	2-461
Phosphate of lime,	- - - - -	3-636
magnesia,	- - - - -	0-769
Oxide of iron, with some phosphate of iron,	- - - - -	10-77

It has been inferred, from these analyses, that the albumen of the blood is not in the form of an albuminate of soda, nor of a combination with carbonate or bicarbonate of soda, but is in combination with the alkaline tribasic phosphate, and the chloride of sodium,—the former salt possessing, in a high degree, the power of dissolving protein compounds and phosphates of lime, and probably being the solvent of those constituents in the blood. Dr. John Davy,<sup>d</sup> however, thinks, that even admitting the accuracy of Enderlin's results, the propriety of applying them to the condition of the alkali in the liquid blood may be questioned. Carbonate of soda, he observes, is decomposed when heated with phosphate of lime; and when added in small quantity to blood is not to be detected in its ashes. This may account

<sup>a</sup> Bridgewater Treatise, Amer. edit., p. 280, Philad. 1834; see, also, J. Möller, op. citat. 133; Thomson, Animal Chemistry, p. 349, Edinb. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> For the methods of analyzing the blood, see Simon, op. cit., p. 166.

<sup>c</sup> Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie, Marz und April, 1844, cited by Mr. Paget, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1845, p. 255.

<sup>d</sup> Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, vol. ii., No. 26, for 1845.

for its not having been found there. Were the opinion, referred to, correct, an acid added to blood or its serum, after the action of the air-pump, ought not on re-exhaustion to occasion a farther disengagement of air; but Dr. Davy finds that it does. This and other results induce him to give the preference to the conclusion, that blood contains sesquicarbonate of soda.

Dutrochet believed that he had formed muscular fibres from albumen by the agency of galvanism; and he supposed that the red particles of the blood formed each a pair of plates, the nucleus being negative, the envelope positive:<sup>a</sup> but Müller<sup>b</sup> has shown, that all the appearances which he attributed to different electric properties of the blood are explicable by the precipitation of the albumen and fibrin, in consequence of the decomposition of the salts of the serum, and of the oxidation of the copper wire used in the experiments,—both the decomposition of the salts and the oxidation of the copper being the usual effects of galvanic action. With the galvanometer he was unable to discover any electric current in the blood: he perceived no variation in the needle of the multiplicator, when he inserted one wire into an artery of a living animal, and the other into vein.

Lastly,—interesting experiments and considerations on the blood were published several years ago by Dr. Benjamin G. Babington.<sup>c</sup> The principal experiment was the following. He drew blood in a full stream from the vein of a person labouring under acute rheumatism into a glass vessel filled to the brim. On close inspection, a colourless fluid was immediately perceived around the edge of the surface, and after a rest of four or five minutes, a bluish appearance was observed forming an upper layer on the blood, which was owing to the subsidence of the red particles to a certain distance below the surface, and the consequent existence of a clear liquor between the plane of the red particles and the eye. A spoon, previously moistened with water, was now immersed into the upper layer of liquid, by a gentle depression of one border. The liquid was thus collected quite free from red particles, and was found to be an opalescent, and somewhat viscid solution, perfectly homogeneous in appearance. By repeating the immersion, the fluid was collected in quantity, and transferred to another vessel. That which Dr. Babington employed, was a bottle, holding about 180 grains, of globular form, with a narrow neck and perforated glass stopper. The solution with which the globular bottle was filled, though quite homogeneous at the time it was thus collected, was found, after a time, to separate into two parts, viz., into a clot of fibrin, which had the precise form of the bottle into which it was received, and a clear serum, possessing all the usual characters of the

<sup>a</sup> See also, Bellingeri *Experimenta in Electricitatem Sanguinis, Urinæ et Bilis Animalium*, Aug. Taurin, 1826—cited by J. Müller, loc. cit.; and Burdach, *Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, iv. 15 und 103, Berlin, 1832.

<sup>b</sup> *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 133.

<sup>c</sup> *Med. Chirurg. Transact.*, vol. xvi., part 2, Lond. 1831; art. Blood (Morbid Conditions of the) in *Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol.*, Lond. 1836—reprinted in *Dunglison's American Medical Library and Intelligencer*, for April, 1837. See, also, on this subject, the views of Dr. John Davy, in *Researches, Physiological and Anatomical*, *Dunglison's Amer. Medical Library edit.*, p. 13, Philad. 1840.

fluid. From this experiment, Dr. Babington inferred, that buffed blood, to which we shall have to refer under another head, consists of only two constituents, the red particles, and a liquid to which he gives the name, *liquor sanguinis*,—the *plasma* of Schultz—so called by him, because he esteems it to be the true nutritive and plastic portion of the blood, from which all the organs of the body are formed and nourished.

It has long been observed, that the blood of inflammation is longer in coagulating than the blood of health, and that the last portion of blood drawn from an animal coagulates the quickest. The immediate cause of this buffy coat is thus explained by Dr. Babington. The blood, consisting of *liquor sanguinis* and insoluble red particles, preserves its fluidity long enough to permit the red particles, which are of greater specific gravity, to subside through the liquor sanguinis. At length, the *liquor sanguinis* separates, by a general coagulation and contraction, into two parts, and this phenomenon takes place uniformly throughout the liquor. That part of it, through which the red particles had time to fall, furnishes a pure fibrin or buffed crust, whilst the portion into which the red particles had descended furnishes the coloured clot. This, in extreme cases, may be very loose at the bottom, from the great number of red particles collected there, each of which has supplanted its bulk of fibrin, and consequently diminished its firmness in that part. There is, however, with this limitation, no more fibrin in one part of the blood than another. Researches, however, by Mr. Gulliver,<sup>b</sup> would seem to show, that the rate at which the red corpuscles sink in a fluid, may give a very incorrect measure of its tenuity, since they subside much slower in serum or in liquor sanguinis made thinner and lighter by weak saline solutions, than in the same animal fluids made thicker and heavier by gum. The blood, too, may have its coagulation retarded, whilst it is thinned and reduced in specific gravity; and yet no buffy coat appear. The greater aggregation of the corpuscles, observed by Mr. T. Wharton Jones,<sup>c</sup> and subsequently in his experiments, seemed to him to be connected with the accelerated rate of subsiding; as it was prevented or reversed by salts, which dispersed the corpuscles, and increased by viscid matters, which increased the aggregation.

It is a well-known fact, that the shape of the vessel into which the blood is received influences the depth of the buff.<sup>d</sup> The space, left by the gravitation of the red particles, bears a proportion to the whole perpendicular depth of the blood, so that in a shallow vessel scarcely any buff may appear, whilst the same blood in a deep vessel would have furnished a crust of considerable thickness; but Dr. Babington asserts, that even the quantity of the crassamentum is dependent, within certain limits, on the form of the vessel. If this be shallow, the crassamentum will be abundant; if approaching the cube or

<sup>a</sup> See an analysis of Professor Schultz's views, in *Lond. Lancet*, Aug. 1839, p. 712.

<sup>b</sup> *Dublin Med. Press*, Dec. 11, 1844.

<sup>c</sup> *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, Oct. 1843, p. 309.

<sup>d</sup> Dr. J. Davy, *op. citat.* p. 45.

sphere in form, it will be scanty. The difference is owing to the greater or less distance of the coagulating particles of fibrin from a common centre, which causes a more or less powerful adhesion and contraction of these particles. This is a matter of practical moment, inasmuch as blood is conceived to be thick or thin, rich or poor, in reference to the quantity of crassamentum; and pathological views are entertained in consequence of conditions, which, after all, may depend not perhaps on the blood itself, but on the vessel into which it is received.

To remove an objection, that might be urged against a general conclusion deduced from the experiment cited,—that it was made upon blood in a diseased state,—Dr. Babington received healthy blood into a tall glass vessel half filled with oil, which enabled the red particles to subside more quickly than would otherwise have been the case. This blood was found to have a layer of *liquor sanguinis*, which formed a buffy coat, whilst a portion of the same blood, received into a similar vessel, in which there was no oil, had no buff. Hence, it appeared, that healthy blood is similarly constituted as blood disposed to form a buffy coat, the only difference being, that the former coagulates more quickly than the latter. Dr. J. Davy,<sup>a</sup> however, has observed, that inflammatory blood, in some instances, does not coagulate more slowly than healthy blood, and as from the experiments of J. Müller<sup>b</sup> it would appear that the presence of fibrin in the blood favours the subsidence of the red particles, Müller was led to infer, that the formation of the buffy coat may arise from the blood containing a larger quantity of fibrin, which the blood of inflammation is known to do. So that the principal causes, he thinks, of the subsidence of the red particles and the formation of the buffy coat in inflammatory blood, appear to be—the slow coagulation of the blood and the increased quantity of fibrin.<sup>c</sup> The most correct view, however, is, perhaps, that of Andral,<sup>d</sup> that the essential condition of the buffy coat is an increase in the quantity of fibrin in proportion to the red particles. Hence, if there be an absolute increase of fibrin, the red particles remaining the same, as in inflammation; or, if there be a diminution in the proportion of the red particles, the fibrin remaining the same, as in chlorosis, the buffy coat may result; provided only there be—as there probably always is under such circumstances—a greater aggregation of the corpuscles.

An interesting fact connected with this subject has been noticed by Mr. T. Wharton Jones.<sup>e</sup> If a single drop of inflammatory blood be examined by the microscope, it will be observed, that the red corpuscles have an unusual attraction for each other, which occasions

<sup>a</sup> Philosophical Transactions, for 1822.

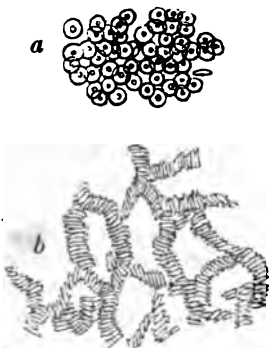
<sup>b</sup> Op. citat. p. 117; and Magendie, *Leçons sur le Sang*, &c., or translation in *Lond. Lancet*, and in *Bell's Med. Libr.* edition, p. 77. Philad. 1839.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. J. Davy, *Researches*, &c., p. 28; see, connected with the buffy coat and the life of the blood, the remarks in the latter part of this volume, under the head of Life.

<sup>d</sup> *Hématologie Pathologique*, p. 75, Paris, 73. See, also Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 589, Lond. 1842, or Amer. edit. p. 430; and the author's *Practice of Medicine*, Book 3, 2d edit. Philad. 1844.

<sup>e</sup> *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, Oct. 1843, p. 309.

Fig. 222.



Aggregation of Corpuscles in Healthy and in Inflamed Blood.

a. Healthy blood. b. Inflamed blood.

them to coalesce in piles and masses, as in the second marginal illustration, leaving wide interspaces for the fibrin, lymph, corpuscles, and serum. It is probable, too, that there is an increased attraction between the particles of the fibrin, which will account for the firmer clot of the blood of inflammation.

The fact of a single drop of blood being sufficient to indicate the character of the whole mass, may be important in cases where a doubt exists as to the propriety of bleeding to any extent.

It is proper to remark, that recent researches by Mulder<sup>a</sup> have led him to infer, that the buffy coat does not consist of true fibrin, but is a compound of a binoxide of protein, which is insoluble in boiling water, and a tritoxide, which is soluble. These

oxides Mulder comprehends under the name *oxyprotein*.

It may be proper to remark, that in all experiments on the horse, whenever the blood flows from an opened vein in a continuous stream, with a sufficiently strong jet, and is received into a vessel, which is neither too shallow nor too wide, the upper part of the clot is instantly found occupied by a white mass, which perfectly resembles the buff of the blood of man. Such was the result of the observations of MM. Andral, Gavarret, and Delafond.<sup>b</sup>

It need scarcely be said, that venous blood must differ somewhat in its character in the different veins. In its passage through the capillary or intermediate circulation, the arterial blood is deprived of several of its elements, but this deprivation is different in different parts of the body. The blood, for example, which returns from the salivary glands, must vary from that which returns from the kidneys. In the blood of the abdominal venous system, the greatest variation is observed. Professor Schultz<sup>c</sup> has inquired into the chemical and physiological differences between the blood of the vena portæ and that of the arteries and of other veins. He found, that it is not reddened by the neutral salts, or by exposure to the atmosphere, or to oxygen; that it does not generally coagulate; that it contains less fibrin; proportionably more cruor, and less albumen; and has twice as much fat in its solid parts as that of the arteries and of the other veins; the proportions being as follows:

Blood of the vena portæ	-	-	-	-	1.66 per cent.
of the arteries	-	-	-	-	0.92
of the other veins	-	-	-	-	0.63

M. Simon,<sup>d</sup> in his researches, also found a much less proportion of

<sup>a</sup> *Annalen der Chemie*, u. s. w., Bd. xlviii., Heidelb. 1843; cited by Mr. T. Wharton Jones, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, July, 1844, p. 259.

<sup>b</sup> *Essai d'Hématologie Pathologique*, p. 27. Paris, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> *Rust, Magazin für die gesamt. Heilkund.* Bde. 44, H. i. See, also, Ansell's *Lectures on the Physiology, &c. of the Blood*, Feb. 1, 1840, p. 682; and Prof. Schultz, in *Lond. Lancet*, Aug. 10, 1839, p. 717.

<sup>d</sup> *Animal Chemistry*, Sydenham edition, p. 207, Lond. 1845.



fibrin, and a larger of fat and of colouring matter. The fat he ascribes to the fluids that are produced during the act of digestion, and which are conveyed into the portal vein.

The character and quantity of the different constituents of the blood, as well as its coagulation, vary greatly in disease; and the investigation is one of the most important in the domain of pathology.<sup>a</sup> It is one which has attracted the attention of modern pathologists, and especially of MM. Andral and Gavarret, and of Simon, and MM. Becquerel and Rodier, who have endeavoured to detect the changes that occur in disease in the amount of the organic elements of the fluid. These the author has referred to in their appropriate places in another work.<sup>b</sup> The usual proportions of each element, in 1000 parts of healthy blood, according to M. Lecanu, and adopted by MM. Andral and Gavarret, are as follows:

Fibrin, . . . . .	3
Red particles, . . . . .	127
Solid matter of serum, . . . . .	80
Water, . . . . .	790

According to Simon,<sup>c</sup> the proportions are somewhat different,—a difference resulting in a great measure on a different method of analysis. The mean of his observations gave—

Water, . . . . .	795.278
Solid residue, . . . . .	204.022
Fibrin, . . . . .	2.104
Fat, . . . . .	3.346
Albumen, . . . . .	76.600
Globulin, . . . . .	103.022
Hæmatin, . . . . .	6.209
Extractive matters and salts, . . . . .	12.012a

The following table exhibits the mean composition of the blood, in eleven cases, as observed by MM. Becquerel and Rodier.\*

Density of the defibrinated blood, . . . . .	1060.2
“ of the serum, . . . . .	1028
Water, . . . . .	779
Globules, . . . . .	141.1
Albumen, . . . . .	69.4
Fibrin, . . . . .	2.2
Extractive matters and free salts, . . . . .	6.8
Fatty matters, . . . . .	1.6
Serolin . . . . .	0.02
Fatty phosphuretted matter, . . . . .	0.488
Cholesterin, . . . . .	0.088
Soapy matter, . . . . .	1.004

\* See, on this subject, Babington, *op. citat.*; G. O. Rees's *Analysis of the Blood and Urine*, in *Health and Disease*, Lond. 1836; Mr. E. A. Jennings's Report on the Chemistry of the Blood, as illustrating its Pathology, in *Transact. of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association*, vol. iii., Lond. 1835; Giacomini, *De la Nature, de la Vie, et des Maladies du Sang*,—Monograph. in *Encyclographie des Sciences Médicales*, Avril, 1840; L. Mandl, *Mannel d'Anatomie générale*, 271, Paris, 1843; MM. Andral and Gavarret, *Archiv. Général. série 3, tom. viii. p. 501*; Andral, *op. cit.*; Guérard, *art. Sang. Dict. de Med. 2de édit. xxviii.*, 70, Paris, 1844, and Simon, Becquerel and Rodier, *in op. cit.*

<sup>b</sup> Practice of Medicine, 2d edit. Philad. 1844.

<sup>c</sup> Animal Chemistry, p. 245.

<sup>d</sup> It is proper to remark, with Simon, that the sum of the hæmatin and globulin, in his analysis, can never represent the absolute quantity of blood corpuscles. In his method the nuclei and capsules of the blood corpuscles are estimated as albumen; in that of Berzelius as fibrin; and in that of MM. Andral and Gavarret, as appertaining to the corpuscles.

<sup>e</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, Nos. 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51, for 1844.

One thousand parts of calcined blood contained—

Chloride of sodium,	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.1
Soluble salts,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.5
Phosphates,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.334
Iron,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.565

From these numbers they draw the following deductions. *First.* The limits within which the composition of healthy blood varies are very restricted, and are probably dependent on constitution, age, and diet. *Secondly.* The number for the corpuscles exceeds 127, which has been regarded as expressing the healthy mean. *Thirdly.* The number for the fibrin, 2.2, is below that usually admitted as the mean of that element, 3.<sup>a</sup>

The mode in which the ratio of the various elements of the blood is estimated is detailed by MM. Andral and Gavarret, Simon, and Becquerel and Rodier, in the works referred to;<sup>b</sup> but recently a simple method has been given by M. Figuier;<sup>c</sup> which is founded on the fact made known by Berzelius, that after the addition of a solution of a neutral salt to defibrinated blood, the corpuscles do not pass through bibulous paper. On the addition of two parts of a solution of sulphate of soda, of specific gravity 1.130, to one of blood, M. Figuier found, that the whole of the corpuscles remained on the surface of the filter. The following is his procedure. The fibrin is removed in the usual way by whipping, and dried, and weighed. The weight of the corpuscles is then ascertained, and that of the albumen by coagulation, the filtered solution by means of heat. The proportion of water is determined by evaporating a small known weight of the blood. The advantage of this plan consists in the facility with which the most important constituents may be determined without any difficult manipulations.

The proportion of fibrin, according to MM. Andral and Gavarret, may perhaps vary, within the limits of health, from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  parts in a thousand. The amount of red particles appears to be subject to greater variation within the limits of health than that of the fibrin. The maximum is about 140, but this is connected with a plethoric condition: the minimum is about 110. Strength of constitution contributes most to raise the globules towards the maximum; whilst debility, congenital or acquired, diminishes them towards the minimum proportion. The solid matter of the serum likewise varies, but there is a certain point of diminution in health below which they do not pass.<sup>d</sup>

The analyses of MM. Becquerel and Rodier appear to exhibit a marked difference in the proportion of the constituents of the blood of the two sexes. So great is this, that in order to attain correct conclusions in regard to morbid blood, it is indispensable, they urge, to contrast it with the male or female blood in health. The average differences between the two are seen in the following table:

<sup>a</sup> Ranking's Abstract, i. 302, Amer. edit. New York, 1846.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. G. O. Rees, Ranking's Abstract, vol. i. part i. p. 252, Amer. edit., New York, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Annales de Chimie et de Physique, ii. 503, cited in Ranking's Abstract, i. 299, Amer. edit., New York, 1845.

<sup>d</sup> Andral, Hématologie Pathologique, p. 29, Paris, 1843.

	Male.	Female.
Density of defibrinated blood, . . . . .	1060.0	1057.5
Density of serum, . . . . .	1028.0	1027.4
Water, . . . . .	779.0	791.1
Fibrin, . . . . .	2.2	2.2
Sum of fatty matters, . . . . .	1.60	1.63
Serolin, . . . . .	0.02	0.02
Phosphorized fat, . . . . .	0.488	0.464
Cholesterin, . . . . .	0.088	0.090
Saponified fat, . . . . .	1.004	1.046
Albumen, . . . . .	69.4	70.5
Blood corpuscles, . . . . .	141.1	127.2
Extractive matters and salts, . . . . .	6.8	7.4
Chloride of sodium, . . . . .	3.1	3.9
Other soluble salts, . . . . .	2.5	2.9
Earthy phosphates, . . . . .	0.334	0.354
Iron, . . . . .	0.566	0.541

The main difference, consequently, between male and female blood is in the amount of water and blood corpuscles.\*

It may be added, that a peculiar entozoon,—*polystoma venarum*,—has been found in human venous blood, especially in that of persons affected with hæmoptysis: and Valentin several times observed minute entozoa—*anguillulæ intestinales*—in the circulating blood of frogs.<sup>b</sup> Recently, MM. Gruby and Delafond<sup>c</sup> have communicated to the *Académie Royale des Sciences* of Paris, the discovery of filariæ in the circulating fluid of a living dog.

### 3. PHYSIOLOGY OF THE CIRCULATION.

The blood, contained in the circulatory apparatus, is in constant motion. The venous blood, brought from every part of the body, is emptied into the right auricle; from the right auricle it passes into the corresponding ventricle; the latter projects it into the pulmonary artery, by which it is conveyed to the lungs, passing through the capillary system into the pulmonary veins. These convey it to the left auricle; from the left auricle it enters the corresponding ventricle; and the left ventricle sends it into the aorta, along which it passes to the different organs and tissues of the body, through the general intermediate or capillary system, which communicates with the veins; these last vessels return the blood to the part whence it set out. This entire circuit includes both the lesser and the greater circulation.

It was not until the commencement of the seventeenth century, that any precise ideas were entertained regarding the general circulation. In antiquity, the most erroneous notions prevailed; the arteries being generally looked upon as tubes for the conveyance of some aerial fluid to, and from, the heart, whilst the veins conducted the blood, whither or for what precise purpose was not understood. The names, given to the principal arterial vessel—the *aorta*—and to the *arteries*, sufficiently show the functions originally ascribed to them, both being derived from the Greek, *αἴρ*, “air,” and *ῥησις*, “to keep;” and this is farther confirmed by the fact, that the trachea or windpipe was ori-

\* For the differences of blood, according to constitution, temperament, &c., see Simon, *Animal Chemistry*, Sydenham edition, p. 236, Lond. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> V. Bruns, *Lehrbuch der Allgemeinen Anatomie des Menschen*, s. 42, Braunschweig, 1841.

<sup>c</sup> Philad. Med. Examiner, Jan. 13, 1844, from *Comptes Rendus*.

ginally termed an artery,—the *ασπρη αραχια* of the Greeks,—the *aspera arteria* of the Latin writers. In the time of Galen, however, the arteries were known to contain blood; and he seems to have had some notions of a circulation. He remarks, that the chyle, the product of digestion, is collected by the meseraic veins and carried to the liver, where it is converted into blood; the supra-hepatic veins then convey it to the pulmonary heart; thence it proceeds in part to the lungs, and the remainder to the rest of the body, passing through the median septum of the auricles and ventricles. This limited knowledge of the circulation continued through the whole of the middle ages; the functions of the veins being universally misapprehended; and the general notion being, that they also convey blood from the heart to the organs; from the centre to the circumference. It was not until after the middle of the sixteenth century, that the lesser circulation, or that through the lungs, was comprehended by the labours of Michael Servetus,<sup>a</sup>—who fell a victim to the persecution and intolerance of Calvin,—and of Andrew Cæsalpinus and Realdus Columbus. It has, indeed, been imagined, that they possessed some notion of the greater circulation. However this may have been, all nations unite in awarding to Harvey the merit, if not of entire originality, of at least having first clearly described it. The honour of the discovery is, therefore, his; and by it his name has been rendered immortal,—for its importance to the physiology and pathology of the animal fabric is overwhelming. How vague and inaccurate must have been the notions of the early pathologists regarding the doctrine of acute diseases, in which the circulation is always largely affected,—diseases, which, according to the estimate of some writers, constitute two-thirds of the morbid states to which mankind are liable. It was in the year 1619, that Harvey attained a full knowledge of the circulation; but his discovery was not promulgated until the year 1628; in a tract, to which the merit of clearness, perspicuity, and demonstration has been awarded by all.<sup>b</sup> Yet so strong is the force of prejudice, and so difficult is it to discard preconceived notions, that it was remarked, according to Hume,<sup>c</sup> that no physician in Europe, who had reached forty years of age, ever, to the end of his existence, adopted Harvey's doctrine of the circulation; and Harvey's practice in London diminished extremely for a time from the reproach drawn upon him by that great and signal discovery.<sup>d</sup>

Of the truth of the course of the blood, as established by Harvey, we have numerous and incontestable evidences, which it may now be almost a work of supererogation to adduce. Of these the following are some of the most striking. *First.* If we open the chest of a living animal, we find the heart alternately dilating and contracting

<sup>a</sup> See the unnoticed theories of Servetus, by Geo. Sigmond, M.D., Lond. 1628; Hecker, *Lehre vom Kreislauf von Harvey*, Berlin, 1831; Haller, *Element. Physiol.* iv. 4, 17; Sprengel's *Hist. de Médecine*, par Jourdan, tom. iv.; Dr. J. R. Coxe, *Inquiry into the Claims of Dr. W. Harvey to the Discovery of the Circulation, &c.*, Philad. 1834; and Gerdy, in art. *Circulation*, *Diction. de Médecine*, 2de édit. viii. 68, Paris, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> *Exercitat. Anatom. de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis*, Francof., 1628, Glasgus, 1751.

<sup>c</sup> *History of England*, chap. lxiii.

<sup>d</sup> See, also, Parkinje, in art. *Circulatio Sanguinis*, in *Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft.* vii. 695, Berlin, 1831.

so as manifestly to receive and expel the blood in reciprocal succession. *Secondly.* The valves of the heart, and of the great arteries, which arise from the ventricles, are so arranged as to allow the blood to flow in one direction, and not in another; and the same may be said of those veins, which are directed towards the heart. The tricuspid valve permits the blood to flow only from the right auricle into the corresponding ventricle; the sigmoid valves admit it to enter the pulmonary artery, but not to return; and, as there is, in the adult, no immediate communication between the right and left sides of the heart, the blood must pass along the pulmonary artery and by the pulmonary veins to the left auricle. The mitral valve, again, is so situate, that the blood can only pass in one direction from auricle to ventricle; and, at the mouth of the aorta, the same valvular arrangement exists as at the mouth of the pulmonary artery, permitting the blood to proceed along the artery, but preventing its reflux. *Thirdly.* If an artery and a vein be wounded, the blood will be observed to flow from the part of the vessel nearest the heart in the case of the artery; from the other extremity in that of a vein. The ordinary operation of bloodletting at the flexure of the arm affords us an elucidation of this. The bandage is applied above the elbow, for the purpose of compressing the superficial veins, but not so tightly as to compress also the deep-seated artery. The blood passes along the artery to the extremity of the fingers, and returns by the veins, but its progress back to the heart by the subcutaneous veins being prevented by the ligature, they become turgid; and, if a puncture be made, the blood flows freely. If, however, the ligature be applied so forcibly as to compress the main artery, the blood no longer flows to the extremity of the fingers; there is none, consequently, to be returned by the veins; they do not rise properly; and if a puncture be made no blood flows. This is not an unfrequent cause of the failure of an inexperienced phlebotomist. If the bandage, under such circumstances, be slackened, the blood will resume its course along the artery, and a copious stream will issue from the orifice, which did not previously transmit a drop. This operation, then, exhibits the fact of the flow of blood along the arteries from the heart, and of its return by the veins. From what has been said, too, it will be obvious, that if a ligature be applied to both vessels, the artery will become turgid above the ligature, the vein below it. *Fourthly.* The microscopical experiments of Leeuwenhoek, Malpighi, Spallanzani, and others, have exhibited to the eye the passage of the blood in successive waves by the arteries towards the veins, and its return by the latter. *Lastly.* The fact is farther demonstrated by the effects of transfusion of blood, and of the injection of substances into the vessels; both of which operations will be alluded to in another place.\*

In tracing the physiological action of the different parts of the circulatory apparatus, we shall follow the order observed in the anatomical sketch; and describe, in succession, the circulation in the heart, in the arteries, in the capillary vessels, and in the veins; on all of which points there has been much interesting diversity of opinion,

\* Bostock's Physiology, 3d edit. p. 213. Lond. 1836.

and much room for ingenious speculation, and for farther improvement.

a. *Circulation in the Heart.*

It has been already observed, that when the heart of a living animal is exposed, it is remarked to undergo alternate contraction and dilatation. The mode, in which the circulation through the heart is accomplished, is generally considered to be as follows:—the blood is received into the two auricles at the same time, and is transmitted into the two great arteries synchronously. In order that the heart shall receive blood, it is necessary that the auricle should be dilated. This movement is partly, perhaps, effected by virtue of the elasticity which it possesses in its structure. Let us suppose it to be once filled; the stimulus of the blood excites it to contraction, and the blood is thus sent into the corresponding ventricle. As soon, however, as it has emptied itself, the stimulus is withdrawn: and, by virtue of its elasticity, it returns to the state in which it was prior to contraction. An approach to a vacuum is thus formed in the cavity, and the blood is solicited towards it from the veins, until it is again filled and its contraction is renewed. When the right auricle contracts there are four channels by which the blood might be presumed to pass from it,—the two terminations of the *venæ cavæ*, the coronary vein, and the auriculo-ventricular communication. The constant flow of blood from every part of the body prevents it from readily returning by the *venæ cavæ*, whilst the small quantity, which, under other circumstances, might have entered the coronary vein, is prevented by its valve. To the flow of the blood through the aperture into the ventricle, which is in a state of dilatation, there is no obstacle, and accordingly it takes this course, raising the tricuspid valves.

It may be remarked, that physiologists are not entirely of accord regarding the reflux of blood into the *venæ cavæ*. Some think that this always occurs to a slight extent; others, that it is never present in the physiological or healthy state. Its existence is unequivocal, where an obstacle occurs to the due discharge of the blood into the ventricle. For example, if any impediment exists to the flow of blood along the pulmonary artery, either owing to mechanical obstruction or to diminished force of the ventricle, the reflux will be manifested by a kind of pulsation in the veins, which Haller has called the *venous pulse*.

The blood, having attained the right ventricle, by the effort exerted by the contraction of the auricle, and by the aspiration exerted by the dilatation of the cavity through the agency of its elastic structure, the ventricle contracts. Into it there are but two apertures,—the auriculo-ventricular, and the mouth of the pulmonary artery. By the former, much of the blood cannot escape, owing to the tricuspid valve, which acts like the sail of a ship,—the blood distending it as the wind does a sail, and the *chordæ tendinæ* retaining it in position, so that the greater part of the blood is precluded from reflowing into the auricle. This auriculo-ventricular valve is not, however, as per-

fect as that of the left heart. The observations of Mr. King<sup>a</sup> show, that whilst the structure of the mitral valve is adapted to close accurately all communication between the left auricle and ventricle during the contraction of the latter, that of the tricuspid valve is designedly calculated to permit, when closed, the flow of a certain quantity of blood into the auricle. The comparatively imperfect valvular function of the tricuspid was shown by various experiments on recent hearts, in which it was found, that fluids, injected through the aorta into the left ventricle, were perfectly retained in that cavity by the closing of the mitral valve, but that when the right ventricle was similarly injected through the pulmonary artery, the tricuspid valves generally allowed the escape of the fluid in streams, more or less copious, in consequence of the incomplete apposition of their margins. This peculiarity of structure in the tricuspid, Mr. King regards as an express provision against the mischiefs that might result from an excessive afflux of blood to the lungs,—the tricuspid thus acting as a safety valve, and being more especially advantageous in incipient diseased enlargements of the right ventricle. The only other way the blood can escape from the right ventricle is by the pulmonary artery, the sigmoid valves of which it raises. These had been closed like flood-gates, during the dilatation of the ventricle; but they are readily pushed outwards, by the column transmitted from the ventricle. Such is the circulation through one heart,—the *pulmonic*. The same explanation is applicable to the other,—the *systemic*; and hence it is, that the structure, as well as the functions of the heart, is so much better comprehended, by conceiving it to be constituted of two essentially similar organs.

The above description is that which is usually given of the circulation through the heart. There is great reason, however, for the belief, that too much importance has been assigned to the distinct contraction of the auricles. If we examine their anatomical arrangement we discover, that there are no valves at the mouths of the great veins which open into them, and that, although, in the proper auricular or dog's ear portion, muscular fibres, and columns,—somewhat analogous to those of the columnæ carneæ of the ventricles, and probably destined for similar uses—exist, the parietes of the main portions of the auricles—or those that constitute the venous sinuses—are but little adapted for any thing like energetic contraction. In experiments on living animals observation shows, that the rhythmic acts of dilatation and contraction are more signally exhibited by the ventricle, whilst 'in some monsters the auricles are wanting, and in birds they are very small. M. d'Espine, too, considers the auricles, in receiving or transmitting blood, to have only a vermicular motion, not one of contraction; and in a case of monstrosity, described by Dr. T. Robinson,<sup>b</sup> of Petersburg, Virginia, no distinct systole and diastole of the auricles could be detected. Besides, if we admit both an active power of dilatation and of contraction in the

<sup>a</sup> Guy's Hospital Reports, No. iv. for April, 1837; see, also, P. Blakiston, Lond. Med. Gaz., Aug. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> American Journal of the Medical Sciences, No. xxii. for February, 1833.

ventricles, any similar action of the auricles would seem to be superfluous. In the state of active dilatation of the ventricles, the blood is drawn into their cavities; and as soon as they enter into contraction, the auriculo-ventricular valves prevent the farther entrance into them of the blood arriving in the auricles by the large veins, and give occasion to the distension of the auricles; in this way, the dilatation of the auricles, synchronous with the contraction of the ventricles, is accounted for. As soon as the ventricle has emptied itself of its blood, it dilates actively; the blood then passes suddenly from the auricle into its cavity through the auriculo-ventricular opening.

From careful experiments instituted by Drs. Pennock and Moore,<sup>a</sup> they drew the following conclusion:—the ventricles contract and the auricles dilate at the same time, occupying about one-half the whole time required for contraction, diastole, and repose. Immediately at the termination of the systole of the ventricle, its diastole succeeds, occupying about one-fourth of the whole time, synchronously with which the auricle diminishes, by emptying a portion of its blood into the ventricle, but without muscular contraction. The remaining fourth is devoted to the repose of the ventricles, near the termination of which the auricle contracts actively, with a short, quick motion, thus distending the ventricles with an additional quantity of blood; this motion is propagated immediately to the ventricles, and their systole takes place, thus rendering their contractions almost continuous.

From the termination of their diastole to the commencement of their systole, the ventricles are in a state of perfect repose, their cavities remaining full, but not distended; whilst those of the auricles are partially so, during the whole time.

It appears probable, that the great use of the auricles—in which we include the sinuses—is to act as true “sinuses” or gulfs for the reception of the blood proceeding from every part of the body;—and that little effect is produced on the circulation by their varying condition.<sup>b</sup>

The state of the heart in which the ventricles are dilated is termed its *Diastole*; that, in which they are contracted, its *Systole*.

Since the valuable improvement, introduced by Laënnec in the discrimination of diseases of the chest by audible evidences, it has been discovered, that the heart is not in a state of incessant activity, but that it has, like other muscles, its intervals of repose. If we apply the ear or the stethoscope, to the præcordial region, we hear, first, a dull, lengthened sound,<sup>c</sup> which, according to Laënnec, is synchronous with the arterial pulse, and is produced by the contraction of the ventricles. This is instantly succeeded by a sharp, quick sound, like that of the valve of a bellows or the lapping of a dog. To convey a notion of these sounds, Dr. C. J. B. Williams employs the word *lubb-dup*;—the first word of the compound expressing the protracted first sound—and the latter the short second sound. The latter sound corre-

<sup>a</sup> Medical Examiner, Nov. 2, 1839, and Dunglison's American Medical Intelligencer, Dec. 16, 1839, p. 277.

<sup>b</sup> See, on this subject, Elliotson's Human Physiology, p. 174. Lond. 1840.

<sup>c</sup> A Treatise on the Diseases of the Chest, translated by Dr. Forbes, 4th. edit. Lond. 1834.



sponds to the interval between two pulsations, and, according to Laënnec, is owing to the contraction of the auricles. The space of time, that elapses between this and the sound of the contraction of the ventricles, is the period of repose. The relative duration of these periods is as follows:—one-half, or somewhat less, for the contraction of the ventricles; a quarter, or somewhat more, for the contraction of the auricles; and the remaining quarter for the period of total cessation from labour. So that in the twenty-four hours the ventricles work twelve hours and rest twelve; and the auricles work six and rest eighteen. Such is the view of Laënnec; but it is manifestly erroneous. Ocular observation on living animals, as Dr. Alison<sup>a</sup> has remarked, shows that the emptying of the auricle precedes that of the ventricle and that the interval of rest is between the contraction of the ventricle and the next contraction or emptying of the auricle; between the contraction of the auricle and that of the ventricle, there is no appreciable interval. M. Puchelt<sup>b</sup> thinks it most probable that the first sound is caused by the impulse of the blood against the walls of the ventricle during the contraction of the auricles, and the second by the impulse of the blood against the commencement of the arteries during the contraction of the ventricles. In regard to the first sound, M. Beau<sup>c</sup>—and M. Valleix<sup>d</sup> accords with him—agrees pretty nearly with M. Puchelt. He ascribes it to the wave of blood striking against the parietes of the ventricles during the ventricular diastole. The second sound he ascribes, however, to the shock of the column of blood, arriving by the veins, against the parietes of the auricles. M. d'Espine thinks that the first sound is produced by the contraction of the ventricles, and that the second is owing to their dilatation.<sup>e</sup> Our knowledge of the cause of the sounds rendered by the heart, is, indeed, sufficiently imprecise; this is farther proved by the circumstance, that Magendie ascribed the first sound to the shock or impulsion of the apex of the heart during its diastole, and the second to the impulsion of the base of the heart during its systole; but the results of more recent experiments<sup>f</sup> lead him to infer, that the first sound is owing to the contraction of the ventricles, and to the impulse of the apex of the heart against the ribs, and the second sound to a similar impulse of the anterior part of the heart, produced by their dilatation. Rouanet<sup>g</sup> ascribes the first or dull sound to the shock or impulse of the tricuspid and mitral valves against the auriculo-ventricular orifices, and the second or clear sound to the succussion of the blood in the distended aorta and pulmonary artery backwards against the semilunar valves, during the dilatation of the ventricles; and a similar opinion is entertained by Dr. Hope<sup>h</sup> and by Messrs. Mayo<sup>i</sup> and

<sup>a</sup> *Outlines of Physiology*. Lond. 1831.

<sup>b</sup> *System der Medicin*. th. i. Auflage 2te, s. 149. Heidelb. 1835.

<sup>c</sup> *Archiv. Général de Méd.*, Dec. 1835, Janvier, 1839, Juillet, 1841.

<sup>d</sup> *Guide du Médecin Praticien*, tom. iii. p. 34. Paris, 1843.

<sup>e</sup> *Revue Médicale*, Oct. 1831.

<sup>f</sup> *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, 1834.

<sup>g</sup> *Ibid.* No. xxvii.

<sup>h</sup> For an elaborate account of the Experiments on the Action and Sounds of the Heart up to the period of the publication of the work, see Dr. Hope, *Treatise on Diseases of the Heart*, 3d edit. p. 9, Lond. 1839; or Amer. edit. by Dr. Pennock. Philad. 1842.

<sup>i</sup> *Outlines of Human Pathology*, p. 465. Lond. 1836.

Bouilland.<sup>a</sup> In evidence that the first sound is due to the tension of the auriculo-ventricular valves, M. Valentin<sup>b</sup> states, that if a portion of a horse's intestine be tied at one end, be moderately filled with water, without any admixture of air, and have a syringe containing water adapted to the other end, the first sound of the heart is exactly represented by forcing more water in. It may be distinctly heard with the stethoscope applied near the tied extremity of the intestine, at the instant the water from the syringe renders it tense. Mr. Carlisle<sup>c</sup> and Dr. Williams<sup>d</sup> referred the first sound, with Laënnec, to the systole of the ventricles, and the second to the obstacle presented by the semilunar valves to the return of the blood from the arteries to the heart,—and Messrs. Corrigan,<sup>e</sup> Pigeaux,<sup>f</sup> Stokes,<sup>g</sup> and Mackintosh,<sup>h</sup> thought the first sound to be owing to the systole of the venous sinuses, and the second to the systole of the ventricles—an opinion, which Burdach<sup>i</sup> thinks is best founded, but which, as we have seen, is manifestly erroneous.<sup>j</sup>

In a case of ectopia cordis, described by Cruveilhier,<sup>k</sup> by applying the finger to the origin of the pulmonary artery, a distinct vibratory thrill was perceived, which corresponded with the ventricular systole; but no such thrill could be felt by the finger when it was applied to any part of the base of the ventricles. He inferred, therefore, that the first sound cannot be dependent upon the action of the auriculo-ventricular valves. The greatest intensity of the first sound was, indeed, in the same situation as the greatest intensity of the second, that is, at the origin of the large arteries. Dr. Carpenter<sup>l</sup> thinks the results of these observations of M. Cruveilhier, clearly established, that the principal cause of the first sound exists at the entrances to the arterial trunks; and it does not seem to him, that any other reason can be assigned for it than the prolonged rush of blood through their orifices, and the throwing back of the semilunar valves, which, in suddenly flapping down again, produce the second sound. M. Cruveilhier states it, in his opinion, to be a uniform occurrence, that disease of the semilunar valves modifies both sounds;—a fact, which the author has long noticed. Without expressing an opinion as to the validity of M. Cruveilhier's conclusion regarding the two sounds of the heart, Dr. Forbes evidently regards it with favour, under the view long maintained by him, that although certainly characteristically different, the two sounds have so great a

<sup>a</sup> Journal Hebdomad. No. ix., 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen, i. 427; cited by Mr. Paget, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev. Jan. 1845, p. 262.

<sup>c</sup> Report of the Third Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; and Amer. Journal of Med. Sciences, p. 477, for Feb. 1835.

<sup>d</sup> A Rational Exposition of the Physical Signs of Diseases of the Lungs and Pleura, Amer. edit. Philad. 1830.

<sup>e</sup> Dublin Med. Trans., vol. i., New Series.

<sup>f</sup> Bulletin des Sciences Médicales, par. Férussac, xxv. 272.

<sup>g</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, vol. xxxiv.

<sup>h</sup> Principles of Pathology, &c., 2d Amer. edit., ii. 6. Philad. 1837.

<sup>i</sup> Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, iv. 219. Leipz. 1832.

<sup>j</sup> Müller's Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 176. Lond. 1838.

<sup>k</sup> Gazette Méd. de Paris, 7 Août, 1841, p. 535; and Brit. and For. Med. Review, Oct. 1841, p. 535.

<sup>l</sup> Human Physiology, § 486. Lond. 1842.

similarity, and are so allied in time and place, that he could not readily bring his mind to believe, that they do not both depend upon one and the same cause, slightly modified, or, at least, on the different play of the same parts.\*

Drs. Pennock and Moore,<sup>b</sup> who agree in the main with Dr. Hope, found the first sound, the impulse, and the systole of the ventricles to be synchronous: and the second sound to be synchronous with the diastole of the ventricles. The first sound, they suggest, may be a combination of that caused by the contraction of the auricles, the flapping of the auriculo-ventricular valves, the rush of blood from the ventricles, and the sound of muscular contraction. In four of their experiments, when the heart was removed from the body, the ventricles cut open and emptied of their contents, and the auriculo-ventricular valves elevated, a sound resembling the first was still heard, which they attribute chiefly to muscular contraction. The second sound they refer exclusively to the closure of the semilunar valves by the reflux blood from the aorta and pulmonary artery. "This," they remark, "is proved by the greater intensity of this sound over the aorta than elsewhere, the blood having a strong tendency to return through the valvular opening; by the greater feebleness of the sound over the pulmonary artery, which is short, and soon distributes its blood through the lungs, thus producing but slight impulse upon the valves in the attempt to regurgitate; by the disappearance of the sound when the heart becomes congested and contracts feebly; and, finally, on account of its entire extinction when the valve of the aorta was elevated." The main results of the experiments of Drs. Pennock and Moore accord closely with what the author has entertained and taught on this subject,<sup>c</sup> but the views of M. Cruveilhier are well worthy of attention. The whole matter is still open for further investigation. A case of thoracic ectopia has been published by M. Monod,<sup>d</sup> in which it is stated, that the maximum of intensity of the first sound did not occur at the base of the ventricles, but at the middle of their fleshy walls; and M. Monod thinks, that it was caused by the shock of the walls of the ventricles against the internal fleshy columns at the moment of contraction. As to the second sound, he is of opinion, that it was owing to the return of the wave of blood against the semilunar valves.

The following table, compiled chiefly by MM. Barth and Roger,<sup>e</sup>

\* Translation of Laënnec, 4th edit.; and Brit. and For. Med. Review, loc. cit.

<sup>b</sup> Op. citat.

<sup>c</sup> See Elliottson, *Human Physiology*, part i. p. 175, Lond. 1840; Hope, op. citat.; Gerhard, on the *Diagnosis of Diseases of the Chest*, Philad. 1836; Bouillaud, *Traité Clinique des Maladies du Cœur*, Paris, 1835; Racioborski, *Manual of Auscultation*, by Fitzherbert, p. 102, Lond. 1835; Piory, *Traité de Diagnostie*, § 273, 2de edit., Bruxelles, 1838; C. J. B. Williams, *Lectures on the Chest*, in Lond. *Lancet*, reprinted in Bell's *Select Medical Library*, Philad. 1839; Drs. Williams, Todd, and Clendinning, in Lond. *Med. Gaz.*, Dec. 10, 1836; W. H. Walshe, *Physical Diagnosis of Diseases of the Lungs*, Amer. edition, Philad. 1843; Valleix, op. cit.; Barth and Roger, *Traité Pratique d'Auscultation*, 2de edit., Paris, 1844; and Latham, *Lectures on subjects connected with Clinical Medicine*, p. 3. Lond. 1845.

<sup>d</sup> *Bullet. del. Académ. Royale de Méd.* 7 Février, 1843; and *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal*, July, 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Op. cit., p. 359.

affords at a glance the discordant opinions entertained by observers in regard to this important topic of physiology,—an accurate knowledge of which is essential to the correct understanding of cardiac diseases.

	FIRST SOUND CAUSED BY	SECOND SOUND CAUSED BY
LAËNNEC,	Ventricular contraction.	Auricular contraction.
TURNER,	Do.	{ Shock of the heart falling back upon the pericardium during the diastole.
CORRIGAN,	{ Shock of the blood against the ventricular parietes during the diastole.	{ Reciprocal shock of the internal surface of the opposite parietes of the ventricles during the systole.
D'ESPINÈ,	Ventricular contraction.	Ventricular dilatation.
PIGÉAUX, 1832,	{ Shock of the blood against the ventricular parietes at the moment of the diastole.	{ Shock of the blood against the parietes of the aorta and pulmonary artery at the moment of the systole.
PIGÉAUX, 1839,	{ Friction of the blood against the parietes of the ventricles, the orifices, and parietes of the great vessels at the moment of the systole.	{ Friction of the blood against the parietes of the auricles, the auriculo-ventricular orifices, and the cavity of the ventricles at the moment of the diastole.
HOPE, 1831,	{ Molecular collision of the blood in the systole.	{ Molecular collision of the blood in the diastole.
HOPE, 1839,	{ Sound of tension of the valves, sound of muscular extension, rotatory sound in the systole.	{ Clacking of the semilunar valves in the diastole.
ROUANET,	{ Clacking of the auriculo-ventricular valves in the systole.	{ Do.
PIORRY,	{ Friction of the molecules of the blood against each other, and against the parietes of the ventricles, the orifices, and the valves, during the systole of the left ventricle.	{ Passage of the blood into the right cavities. Into what parts? At what moment?
CARLISLE,	{ Irruption of the blood into the arteries during the systole.	{ Clacking of the semilunar valves in the diastole.
MAGENDIE,	{ Shock of the apex of the heart against the thorax at the moment of the systole.	{ Shock of the anterior surface of the heart at the moment of the diastole.
BURDAUGH,	{ Irruption of the blood into the ventricles containing air (?) at the moment of the contraction of the auricles.	{ Projection of the blood into the arteries containing air (?) at the moment of the systole.
BOUILLAUD,	{ Sudden tension ( <i>redressement</i> ) and shock of the opposed surfaces of the auriculo-ventricular valves, and sudden depression of the semilunar valves during the systole.	{ Tension ( <i>redressement</i> ) of the semilunar valves, and shock of their opposed surfaces, and sudden depression of the auriculo-ventricular valves at the moment of the diastole.
GENDRAIN,	{ Vibrations resulting from the collision of the blood in the systole.	{ Percussion of the blood against the parietes of the ventricles at the moment of the diastole.
CAUVEILHIER,	{ Sudden tension ( <i>redressement</i> ) of the semilunar valves by the systole.	{ Depression of these valves at the moment of the diastole.

	FIRST SOUND CAUSED BY	SECOND SOUND CAUSED BY
SKODA,	<i>First ventricular sound.</i> Shock of the blood against the auriculo-ventricular valves; impulsion of the apex of the heart against the thorax. <i>First arterial sound.</i> Shock of the blood against the parietes of the aorta, and of the pulmonary artery in the systole.	<i>Second ventricular sound.</i> Shock of the columns of the blood against the parietes of the ventricles in the diastole. <i>Second arterial sound.</i> Retrograde shock of the column of blood upon the semilunar valves.
BEAU,	Shock of the wave of blood against the parietes of the ventricles in the ventricular diastole.	Shock of the column of blood, arriving by the veins, against the parietes of the auricles.
C. J. B. WILLIAMS,	Muscular contraction of the ventricles during the systole.	Return shock of the columns of blood against the semilunar valves during the diastole.
DUBLIN COMMITTEE,	Friction of the blood against the parietes of the ventricles, and muscular contraction during the systole.	Tension of the semilunar valves and return shock of the columns of blood during the diastole.
LONDON COMMITTEE,	Sudden muscular tension of the ventricles in the systole, and shock of the heart against the thorax.	Sudden occlusion of the semilunar valves by the arterial columns of blood.
PENNOCK AND MOORE,	Muscular contraction of the ventricles and clacking of the auriculo-ventricular valves during the systole.	Occlusion of the semilunar valves by the return shock of the arterial columns of blood.
BARTH AND ROGER,	Contraction of the ventricles: shock at the inferior surface of the semilunar valves, and at the base of the aortic and pulmonary columns of blood; clacking of the auriculo-ventricular valves; and impulse of the heart against the chest.	Tension of the semilunar valves; and return shock of the blood on their concave surface.

It has been a question with physiologists, whether the cavities of the heart completely empty themselves at each contraction. Sénac,<sup>a</sup> and Thomas Bartholine,<sup>b</sup> from their experiments, were long ago led to answer the question negatively. On the other hand, Haller,<sup>c</sup> entertained an opposite opinion,—suggested, he remarks, by his experiments; but, perhaps, notwithstanding all his candour, connected, in some manner, with his doctrine of irritability, which could not easily admit the presence of an irritant in a cavity which had ceased to contract. It has been remarked by Magendie,<sup>d</sup> that if we notice the heart of a living animal, whilst it is in a state of action, it is obvious, that the extent of the contractions cannot have the effect of completely emptying the ventricles; but it must, at the same time, be admitted, that such experiments are inconclusive, inasmuch as they exhibit to us the action of the organ under powerfully deranging influences, and such as could be readily conceived to modify materially the extent of the contractions. The same may be said of a case of

<sup>a</sup> *Traité de la Structure du Cœur, &c., 2de édit. Paris, 1774.*

<sup>b</sup> *Dissertat. de Corde. Hafn. 1648.*

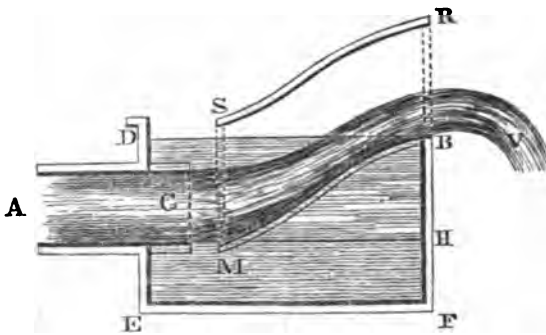
<sup>c</sup> *Element. Physiol. iv.*

<sup>d</sup> *Précis, &c., tom. ii.*

monstrous fœtus observed by Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell.<sup>a</sup> After each contraction of the ventricle he was able to make blood pass into the aorta. If the heart of a frog be examined by cutting out the lower portion of the sternum, owing to its transparency, it can be observed that the ventricle completely empties itself at each contraction; but Dr. Mitchell is decidedly of opinion, that the frog is not a fit subject from which to draw a conclusion, and agrees with Mr. Carlisle, that the cavities of the heart empty themselves more completely in the lower order of animals than in the higher. These observations, however, are insufficient to prove, that whilst an animal is in a normal condition, the auricles and ventricles are not emptied of their contents by their contraction.

The objection that has been urged against the opposite view, that there would always be stagnant blood in the cavities of the heart, is not valid. The experiments of Venturi,<sup>b</sup> have shown, that even in

Fig. 223.



an ordinary hydraulic apparatus, the motion of a stream passing through a vessel of water, is communicated to the fluid, which is at rest in the vessel, so that an incessant change is produced. Let us suppose a stream of water to enter the vessel D E F B, Fig. 223,

which is full of fluid, by the pipe A C, and that opposite to this pipe is the tube S M B R. The stream will pass up this tube higher than the vessel, and discharge itself at B V. At the same time, the fluid in the vessel will be observed to be in motion, and, in a few seconds, the level in the vessel will fall from D B to H M.

During the systole of the heart, the organ is suddenly carried forward; and although it appears to be rendered shorter, its point or apex is generally considered to strike the left side of the chest opposite the interval between the fifth and seventh true ribs; producing what is called the "beating of the heart." The cause of this phenomenon was, at one period, a topic of warm controversy. Borelli,<sup>c</sup> Winslow, and others, affirmed, that it was owing to the organ being elongated during contraction; but to this it was replied by Bassuel,<sup>d</sup> that if such elongation took place, the tricuspid and mitral valves, kept down by the columnæ carneæ, could not possibly close the openings between

<sup>a</sup> Dublin Journal of Medical Science, Nov. 1844, p. 275.

<sup>b</sup> Sur la Communication Latérale du Mouvement dans les Fluides, Paris, 1798; and Sir C. Bell, in Animal Mechanics, p. 35, Library of Useful Knowledge, Lond. 1829.

<sup>c</sup> De Motu Animalium, Lugd. Bat. 1710.

<sup>d</sup> Magendie, Précis, &c. ii. 395.

the corresponding auricles and ventricles. Experiments by Drs. Pennock and Moore,<sup>a</sup> exhibited to them, that the expulsion of the blood from the ventricles was effected by an approximation of the sides of the heart, and not by a contraction of the apex towards the base; and that, during the systole, the heart performs a spiral movement and becomes elongated. Sénac<sup>b</sup> ascribed the beating of the heart to three causes, and his views have been adopted by most physiologists:—1, to the dilatation of the auricles, which occurs during the contraction of the ventricles; 2, to the dilatation of the aorta and pulmonary artery by the introduction of the blood, sent into them by the ventricles; and 3, to the straightening of the arch of the aorta, owing to the blood being forced against it by the contraction of the left ventricle. Dr. William Hunter<sup>c</sup> considered the last cause quite sufficient to explain the phenomenon, and many physiologists have assented to his view. Sir David Barry<sup>d</sup> instituted some experiments upon this subject. He opened the thorax of a living animal, and by passing his hands into the cavity, endeavoured to ascertain the actual condition of the heart and great vessels, as to distension and relative position. He performed seven experiments of this kind, from which he concluded, that the vena cava is considerably increased in size during inspiration, which he ascribes, as will be better understood hereafter, to the partial vacuum then formed in the chest. He supposes that the force exerted by the venous blood on entering the heart, in consequence of the expansion of the chest and the great vessels behind the heart, pushes the organ forwards, and thus causes it to strike against the ribs. Dr. Corrigan thinks, that the apex of the heart has nothing to do with the impulse. He thinks that the heart acts like any other muscle,—that as soon as the ventricles contract, the heart is shortened from below upwards, and that by this shortening it becomes thickened in the middle, in a similar manner to the thickening of the belly of the biceps muscle, which, when it contracts, gives rise to an evident impulse, plainly perceptible to the hand of any one applied to it; and that in like manner the heart's impulse is owing to the body of the ventricles, and not to the apex, striking against the ribs; and Dr. Corrigan's view is considered by Dr. T. R. Mitchell,<sup>e</sup> to be confirmed by the phenomena observed by him on a foetus born with the left side of the thorax wanting; and in which the action of the heart could be closely observed. Drs. Pennock and Moore,<sup>f</sup> however, in their experiments, found that the impulse was synchronous with and caused by the contraction of the ventricles, and that, when felt externally, it arose from the striking of the apex of the heart against the thorax. To show, however, that this apparently simple matter cannot be considered settled, Müller<sup>g</sup> thinks that great uncertainty rests as to whether the impulse be produced during the contraction or dilatation of the ventricles.

To prove, however, that the impulse of the heart is dependent on

<sup>a</sup> Med. Examiner, Nov. 2, 1839. <sup>b</sup> *Traité de la Structure du Cœur, &c.*, Paris, 1749.

<sup>c</sup> John Hunter, *Treatise on the Blood, &c.*

<sup>d</sup> *Exper. Researches on the influence of atmospheric pressure upon the circulation*, Lond. 1826.

<sup>e</sup> *Dublin Journal of Med. Science*, Nov. 1844, p. 271.

<sup>f</sup> *Op. citat.*

<sup>g</sup> *Handbuch, u. s. w.*, Baly's translation, p. 175, Lond. 1838.

the contraction of the muscular fibres of the ventricles, Valentin<sup>a</sup> cut off the apex of the heart in several cases, so that the resistance of the blood and the great vessels, and the supposed consequent recoil, were prevented; yet the tilting movement was observed as much as when the heart was entire.

The systole of the heart is admitted by all to be active. Some physiologists are disposed to think the diastole passive,—that is, the effect of relaxation of the fibres or of the cessation of contraction. Pechlin, Perrault, Hamberger, d'Espine, Alison, and numerous others, have supported an opposite view;—affirming that direct experiment on living animals shows, that positive effort is exerted at the time of the dilatation of the cavities;—a view strikingly confirmed by the case of monstrosity related by Dr. Robinson.<sup>b</sup> His opinion is, that the force of the diastole was in that case equal to, if not greater than that of the systole. In the case, too, observed by Cruveilhier, the diastole had the rapidity and energy of a very active movement, overcoming pressure exerted upon the heart, so that the hand, closed upon it when contracted, was opened with violence. It has been suggested, that if the course of all the fibres, composing the muscular parietes of the organ, were better known, this apparent anomaly might perhaps be as easily explained as in the ordinary case of antagonist muscles. It is probable, however, that the active force, exerted in the dilatation of these cavities, is that of elasticity; and that when the contraction of the muscular fibres has ceased, this is aroused to action, and promptly restores the organ to its previously dilated condition. According to this view, the natural state would be that of dilatation. We shall see, hereafter, that this elasticity is probably one of the agents of the circulation of the blood along the vessels.

The cause of the heart's action has been a deeply interesting question to the physiologist, and, in the obscurity of the subject, has given rise to many and warm controversies. From the first moment of fœtal existence, at which the heart becomes perceptible, till the cessation of vitality, it continues to move. By many of the ancients this was supposed to be owing to an inherent *pulsific virtue*,<sup>c</sup> which enabled it to contract and dilate alternately,—a mode of expression, which, in the infancy of physical science, was frequently employed to cover ignorance, and which has been properly and severely castigated by Molière.<sup>d</sup> It was in ridicule of the same failing that Swift

<sup>a</sup> Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen, i. 427, cited by Mr. Paget, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev. Jan. 1845, p. 262.

<sup>b</sup> Amer. Journal of the Medical Sciences, No. xxii. Feb. 1833. See, also a case of partial Ectopia Cordis, by Dr. John O'Bryen, in Lond. Lancet, for July 7, 1838, p. 520; Cruveilhier, op. cit.; and Monod, Bullet. de l'Acad. Royale de Med., 7 Fév. 1843; and Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., July, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Haller, Elementa Physiologiæ, ii. 6.

<sup>d</sup> "Mihi a doctore  
Domandatur causam et rationem quare  
Opium facit dormire.  
A quo respondeo;  
Quis est in eo  
Virtus dormitive,  
Cujus est natura  
Sensus assoupire."

*Le Malade Imaginaire, Intermede iii.*



represented the action of a smokejack as depending on a meat-roasting power.<sup>a</sup>

Descartes<sup>b</sup> imagined that an explosion took place in the ventricles as sudden as that of gunpowder. With equal nescience, the phenomenon was ascribed by Van Helmont<sup>c</sup> to his imaginary archæus; and by Stahl,<sup>d</sup> and the rest of the animists, to the *anima*, soul or intelligent principle, which is supposed to preside over all the mental and corporeal phenomena. Stahl was, however, one of the first that attempted any rational explanation of the heart's action. Its muscular tissue; the similarity of its contractions to those of ordinary muscles, with the exception of their not being voluntary; the fact of its action being modified by the passions, &c., led him to liken its movements to those of muscles. He admitted, that, generally, we possess neither perception of, nor power over, its motions; but he affirmed, that habit alone had rendered them involuntary; in the same manner as certain muscular twitchings or *tics*, which are at first voluntary, may become irresistible by habit. A strong confirmation of this opinion was drawn from the celebrated case of the honourable Colonel Townshend, (called by Adelon<sup>e</sup> and other French writers, Captain Towson,) who was able, (not all his life, as Adelon asserts, but a short time before his death,) to suspend the movements of his heart at pleasure. This case is of so singular a character, in a physiological as well as pathological point of view, that we shall give it in the words of Dr. George Cheyne,<sup>f</sup> one of the physicians who attended him, and whose character for veracity is beyond suspicion. "Colonel Townshend, a gentleman of excellent natural parts, and of great honour and integrity, had, for many years, been afflicted with constant vomitings, which had made his life painful and miserable. During the whole time of his illness he had observed the strictest regimen, living on the softest vegetables and lightest animal food; drinking asses' milk daily, even in the camp; and for common drink, Bristol water, which, the summer before his death, he had drunk on the spot. But his illness increasing, and his strength decaying, he came from Bristol to Bath in a litter, in autumn, and lay at the Bell Inn. Dr. Baynard, who is since dead, and I were called to him, and attended twice a day for about the space of a week: but, his vomitings continuing still incessant, and obstinate against all remedies, we despaired of his recovery. While he was in this condition, he sent for us early one morning; we waited on him with Mr. Skrine, his apothecary (since dead also); we found his senses clear, and his mind calm; his nurse and several servants were about him. He had made his will and settled his affairs. He told us he had sent for us to give him some account of an odd sensation he had for some time observed and felt in himself, which was that, composing himself, he could *die* or *expire* when he pleased, and yet by an effort, or somehow, he could come to life again; which it seems he had sometimes tried before he had sent for us. We heard this with surprise; but as

<sup>a</sup> Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology, P. ii. a. p. 52, Edinb., 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Tract. de Homine, p. 167, Amst., 1677.

<sup>c</sup> Ortus Medicinæ, &c., Amstel., 1648.

<sup>d</sup> Theoria vera Medica, Hal., 1737; Sprengel's Hist. de Médecine, par Jourdan, v. 195, Paris, 1815.

<sup>e</sup> Physiol. de l'Homme, edit., cit. iii. 302.

<sup>f</sup> Treatise on Nervous Diseases, p. 307.

it was not to be accounted for from tried common principles, we could hardly believe the fact as he related it, much less give any account of it; unless he should please to make the experiment before us, which we were unwilling he should do, lest, in his weak condition, he might carry it too far. He continued to talk very distinctly and sensibly above a quarter of an hour, about this (to him) surprising sensation, and insisted so much on our seeing the trial made, that we were at last forced to comply. We all three felt his pulse first; it was distinct, though small and thready; and his heart had its usual beating. He composed himself on his back, and lay in a still posture, some time. While I held his right hand, Dr. B., laid his hand on his heart, and Mr. S., held a clean looking-glass to his mouth. I found his pulse sink gradually; till at last I could not feel any, by the most exact and nice touch. Dr. Baynard could not feel the least motion in his heart, nor Mr. Skrine the least soil of breath on the bright mirror he held to his mouth. Then each of us, by turn, examined his arm, heart and breath, but could not by the nicest scrutiny discover the least symptom of life in him. We reasoned a long time about this odd appearance as well as we could; and all of us judging it inexplicable and unaccountable; and finding he still continued in that condition, we began to conclude indeed that he had carried the experiment too far, and at last were satisfied that he was actually dead, and were just ready to leave him. This continued about half an hour, by nine o'clock in the morning, in autumn. As we were going away, we observed some motion about the body, and upon examination found his pulse and the motion of his heart gradually returning; he began to breathe gently, and speak softly; we were all astonished, to the last degree, at this unexpected change, and after some further conversation with him, and among ourselves, went away fully satisfied as to all the particulars of this fact, but confounded and puzzled, and not able to form any rational scheme, that might account for it. He afterwards called for his attorney, added a codicil to his will, settled legacies on his servants, received the sacrament, and calmly and composedly expired about five or six o'clock that evening."

It is manifest that this case—unaccountable as it is, in many respects—can add no weight to the views of the Stahlians. It is as strange, as it is inexplicable. The opinion, with them, that the heart's action is a muscular function, was accurate. The error lay in placing it amongst the voluntary functions. It belongs to the involuntary class, equally with many of the muscles concerned in deglutition, and with those of the stomach and intestines; and how well is it for us, as Sir Charles Bell has remarked, that the action of this and other organs, directly instrumental to the organic functions, are placed out of our control! "A doubt—a moment's pause of irresolution—a forgetfulness of a single action at its appointed time—would otherwise have terminated our existence."

In an oriental journal, Mr. H. M. Twedel<sup>b</sup> has published a case,

<sup>a</sup> See Fletcher's *Rudiments of Physiology*, part ii. b. p. 71, Edinb. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> *India Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*; and *Amer. Journ. of the Medical Sciences*, p. 250, Nov. 1837.

even more extraordinary than that of Col. Townshend,—of a Hindoo, thirty years of age, who “is said, by long practice, to have acquired the art of holding his breath, by shutting the mouth, and stopping the interior opening of the nostrils with the tongue.” This man submitted to be buried for a month, and was dug out alive at the expiration of that period. “He was taken out in a perfectly senseless state—his eyes closed, his hands cramped and powerless—his stomach shrunk very much, and his teeth jammed so fast together, that they were forced to open his mouth with an iron instrument to pour a little water down his throat. He gradually recovered his senses, and the use of his limbs, and was restored to perfect health!”

The doctrine of Haller<sup>a</sup> on the heart's action rested upon the *vis insita* or *irritability* to which he referred all muscular contractions, whether voluntary or involuntary. This property, as stated in another place, he conceived to be possessed by muscles as muscles, independently of all nervous influence. The heart, being a muscle, enjoyed it of necessity; and the irritant, which developed it incessantly, was the blood. In evidence of this, he observes, that its contractions are always more forcible and rapid, when the blood is more abundant; and that they occur successively in the cavities of the heart as the blood reaches them. So completely did Haller assign the heart's action to this irritability, that he denied the nerves any influence over it; resting his belief on the admitted facts,—that the heart will continue to beat after decapitation; after the division of the spinal marrow in the neck; and of the nerves distributed to the organ; and, even after it has been entirely removed from the body. How far the opinions of this great man are correct, respecting the power of contraction residing in the heart, as he conceived it to do in other muscles, we shall inquire presently. The heart, however, is doubtless, indirectly, under the nervous influence. We see it affected in the various emotions; sometimes augmenting its action violently, at others retarding it. These circumstances have led some individuals to adopt a kind of intermediate opinion, and to regard the nervous influence as one of the conditions necessary for all muscular contraction, just as the due circulation of blood is one of those conditions; and to admit, at the same time, the separate existence of a *vis insita*. Sömmerring,<sup>b</sup> and Behrends,<sup>c</sup> have, indeed, asserted that the cardiac nerves are not distributed to the tissue of the heart, but merely to the ramifications of the coronary arteries; and hence, that these nerves are not concerned in the motions of the organ, but only in its nutrition; but this special distribution is denied by Scarpa,<sup>d</sup> and by the generality of anatomists.\*

Although the emotions manifestly affect the heart, direct experiments exhibit but little influence over it on the part of the nerves. This, indeed, we have seen, is one of the grounds for the doctrine of

<sup>a</sup> Op. citat.

<sup>b</sup> Corpor. Human. Fabric., iii. § 32.

<sup>c</sup> Dissert. quæ Demonstrat. Cor. Nervis Carere, Mogunt. 1792; and in Ludwigi Script. Neurol. Min., i. 1.

<sup>d</sup> Tabulæ Neurologicæ, &c., Ticin. 1794.

\* Seiler, in art. Herz, in Anat. Phys. Real. Wörterb. iv. 33, Leipz. 1821; and Müller's Handbuch, Baly's translation, p. 190, Lond. 1838.

Haller. Willis<sup>a</sup> divided the eighth pair of nerves; yet the action of the heart persisted for days. Similar results followed the section of the great sympathetic. Magendie<sup>b</sup> states, that he removed, on several occasions, the cervical ganglions, and the first thoracic; but was unable to determine any thing satisfactory from the operation in consequence of the immediate death of the animal from such extensive injury as was inevitable. He observed, however, no direct influence on the heart.

We have numerous examples of the comparative independence of the organ, as regards the encephalon. Decapitated reptiles have lived for months; and anencephalous infants, or those born with part of the brain only, have vegetated during the whole period of pregnancy, and for some days after birth. Legallois<sup>c</sup> kept several decapitated mammiferous animals alive; and maintained the heart in action, (having taken the precaution to tie the vessels of the neck for the purpose of preventing hemorrhage,) by employing artificial respiration, so as to keep up the conversion of venous into arterial blood, and thus to insure to the heart a supply of its appropriate fluid. We find, too, that in fracture of the skull, in apoplexy, and in congenerous affections, the functions of the heart are the last to be arrested. The result of his own experiments led Legallois to infer, that the power of the heart is altogether derived from the spinal marrow; and he conceived, that through the cardiac nerves it is influenced by this portion of the cerebro-spinal axis, and is liable to be affected by the passions, because the spinal marrow is itself influenced by the brain. Dr. Wilson Philip<sup>d</sup> has, however, shown, that the facts do not warrant the conclusions; and he has exhibited, by direct experiment, that the brain has as much influence as the spinal marrow over the motions of the heart, when the circumstances of the experiment are precisely the same. The removal of the spinal marrow, like that of the brain, if the experiment be performed cautiously and slowly, does not sensibly affect the motion of the heart,—the animal having been previously deprived of sensibility. In these experiments, the circulation ceased quite as soon without, as with, the destruction of the spinal marrow. Loss of blood appeared to be the chief cause of its cessation; and pain would have contributed to the same effect, if the animal had been operated on, without having been previously rendered insensible.

Mr. Clift,<sup>e</sup> the former conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, made a series of experiments to ascertain the influence of the spinal marrow on the action of the heart in fishes, and he found, that, whether the heart be exposed or not, its action continues long after the brain and spinal marrow are destroyed, and still longer when the brain is removed without injury to its substance. Similar results were obtained by Treviranus on the frog, and by Saviole on the chick in ovo. Zinn and Ent, too, found, that

<sup>a</sup> *Cerebri Anat.* cap. xxiv. in *Oper.* Genev. 1776.

<sup>b</sup> *Précis*, &c., ii. 401. See, also, Sir A. Cooper, in *Guy's Hospital Reports*, i. 470, Lond. 1836; Müller, *op. citat.* p. 198; and Burdach, *op. citat.* iv. 457.

<sup>c</sup> *Sur le Principe de la Vie*, p. 138.

<sup>d</sup> *An Experimental Inquiry into the Laws of the Vital Functions*, &c., p. 62, Lond. 1817.

<sup>e</sup> *Philosoph. Transact.* for 1815.

after the destruction of the cerebellum, to which Willis ascribed the heart's action, it continued to beat.<sup>a</sup>

All these facts plainly exhibit, that, although the heart is *indirectly* influenced by the brain or spinal marrow, it is not *directly* acted upon by either one or the other, and that its action can be maintained for some time after the destruction of one or both, provided artificial respiration be kept up: but even this last agent is unnecessary: the heart will continue to beat after it has been removed from the body. In the case of the rattlesnake, Dr. Harlan<sup>b</sup> observed the heart, torn from the body, continue its contractions for ten or twelve hours; and in the monstrous fœtus, observed by Dr. T. Robinson,<sup>c</sup> its motion continued for some time after the auricles and ventricles had been laid open; the organ roughly handled, and thrown into a basin of cold water. We are compelled, then, if we do not admit the whole of the Hallerian doctrine of irritability, to presume, that there is something inherent in the structure of the heart, which enables it to contract and dilate, when appropriately stimulated; and it is not even necessary that this should be by the fluid to which it is habituated. It is certain, that the organ, when separated from the body, may be stimulated to contraction, by being immersed in warm water, or pricked with a sharp-pointed instrument. In some experiments by Sir B. Brodie,<sup>d</sup> he emptied the heart of its blood, and found that it still contracted and relaxed alternately. Similar experiments were instituted by M. Mayo,<sup>e</sup> and with like results, from which he concludes that the alternations of contraction and relaxation in the heart depend upon something in its structure. The conclusion is, indeed, irrefutable, if we add to these evidences the results of some experiments by Prof. J. K. Mitchell,<sup>f</sup> of Philadelphia. In 1823, being engaged in dissecting a sturgeon—*Acipenser brevirostrum*?—its heart was taken out and laid on the ground, and, after a time, having ceased to beat, was inflated with the breath, for the purpose of drying it. Hung up in this state, it began again to move, and continued for ten hours to pulsate regularly, though more and more slowly; and when last observed in motion, the auricles had become so dry as to rustle when they contracted and dilated. He subsequently repeated the experiment with the heart of a *Testudo serpentaria* or *snapper*, and found it to beat well under the influence of oxygen, hydrogen, carbonic acid, and nitrogen, thrown into it in succession. Water also stimulated it,—perhaps more strongly,—but made its substance look pale and hydropic, and, in *one minute*, destroyed action beyond recovery. Recently, (1845,) Prof. Mitchell repeated the experiment with the sturgeon with the like results; and soon afterwards, Dr. F. G. Smith, junior,<sup>g</sup> experimented on the hearts of the sturgeon, frog, and snapping-turtle. The heart of one sturgeon

<sup>a</sup> Burdach, *Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, &c., iv. 454, Leipz. 1832. See, also, Müller, *op. citat.* p. 191.

<sup>b</sup> *Medical and Physical Researches*, p. 103, Philad. 1835.

<sup>c</sup> *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, No. xxii., Feb. 1833.

<sup>d</sup> Cooke's *Treatise on Nervous Diseases*, Introd. p. 61, Lond. 1820-23, Amer. edit., Boston, 1824.

<sup>e</sup> *Outlines of Human Physiology*, 4th edit., p. 46, Lond. 1837.

<sup>f</sup> *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, vii. 58, Philad. 1830.

<sup>g</sup> Letter to the author, in *Philadelphia Medical Examiner*, for July, 1845, p. 393.

contracted for twenty-two hours after its removal from the body; that of another for twelve hours; that of the frog for thirteen hours; and that of the snapping-turtle for  $25\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The contractions of the last were arrested by putting the organ in warm water with the hope of increasing them.

It has been supposed, that when the heart is empty of blood, the contact of air with its cavities is the stimulus by which its irritability is excited<sup>a</sup> but Dr. John Reid<sup>b</sup> found, when he placed a frog's heart in a state of activity under the receiver of an air-pump, that its action still continued after the receiver had been exhausted.

The heart is the generator of one of the forces that move the blood. This force has been the subject of much calculation, but the results have been so discordant as to throw discredit upon all mathematical investigations on living organs; a circumstance which renders it unnecessary to state the different plans that have been pursued in these estimations. They are all given in the elaborate work of Haller,<sup>c</sup> to which the reader, who may be desirous of examining them, is referred. Borelli<sup>d</sup> conceived the force exerted by the left ventricle to be equivalent to 180,000 pounds; Sénac<sup>e</sup> to 40 pounds; Hales<sup>f</sup> to 51 pounds 5 ounces; Jurin<sup>g</sup> to 15 pounds 4 ounces; whilst Keill<sup>h</sup> conceived it not to exceed from 5 to 8 ounces! The mode adopted by Hales has always been regarded the most satisfactory. By inserting a glass tube into the carotid of various animals, he noticed how high the blood rose in the tube. This he found to be, in the dog, 6 feet 8 inches; in the ram, 6 feet  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches; in the horse, 9 feet 8 inches; and he estimated that in man it would rise as high as  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Now, a tube, whose area is one inch square and two feet long, holds nearly a pound of water. We may therefore reckon the weight, pressing on each square inch of the ventricle, to be, on a rough estimate, three pounds and three-quarters, or four pounds; and if we consider, with Michelotti, the surface of the left ventricle to be fifteen square inches, it will exert a force, during its contraction, capable of raising sixty pounds.<sup>i</sup> Its extent is more frequently, however, estimated at 10 square inches, and the force developed would therefore, be forty pounds; but this is, of course, a rude approximation. In such a deranging experiment, the force of the heart cannot fail to be modified; and it is so much affected by age, sex, temperament, idiosyncrasy, &c., that the attainment of accurate knowledge on the subject is impracticable. The indefinite character of our information on this matter is sufficiently shown by the investigations of Poiseuille,<sup>j</sup> which led him to suppose, that the force with which the

<sup>a</sup> Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 490. Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol. ii. 611.

<sup>c</sup> Elementa Physiologie, tom. ii. Lausann. 1757-1766.

<sup>d</sup> De Motu Animalium, part ii. Lugd. Bat. 1710.

<sup>e</sup> Traité de la Structure du Cœur. Paris, 1749.

<sup>f</sup> Statical Essays, &c., 4th edit. vol. ii.

<sup>g</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1718 and 1719.

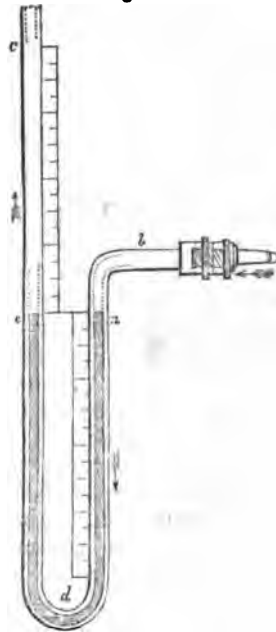
<sup>h</sup> Tentamina Medico-Physica, &c. Lond. 1718.

<sup>i</sup> Martini, Lezioni di Fisiologia, tomo sesto, p. 420, Torino, 1828; and Arnot's Elements of Physics, Amer. edit., vol. i. 2d edit. Philad. 1835.

<sup>j</sup> Magendie's Journal de Physiologie, x. 241.

heart propels the blood in the human aorta is about 4 pounds, 3 ounces, and 43 grains. By means of an instrument, which, from its use, he terms *hæmadynamometer*, the same physiologist has endeavoured to show, that the blood is urged forward with as great a momentum in a small artery, far from the heart, as in any important branch near it. In other words, that there is a uniform amount of pressure exerted by the blood upon the coats of the arteries in every part of the body;—those in the immediate vicinity of the heart being distended by an equal force with those the most remote from it. M. Poiseuille<sup>a</sup> made the experiment on the carotid, and on the muscular branch of the thigh of the horse, and notwithstanding the very great dissimilarity in the diameter, and distance from the heart, of the two tubes, the displacement of the mercury was exactly the same in both. This inference, if correct,—and the experiments have been repeated by Magendie<sup>b</sup> with corresponding results,—is important in a therapeutical point of view, as it would lead to the belief, that if it be desirable to lessen the quantity of the circulating fluid, it is of little consequence what vessel is opened. The instrument, employed by M. Poiseuille, consists of a bent glass tube, of the form represented in the marginal figure, filled with mercury in the lower bent part *a, d, e*. The horizontal part *b*, provided with a brass head, is fitted into the artery, and a small quantity of a solution of carbonate of soda is interposed between the mercury and the blood, which is allowed to enter the tube with the view of preventing the coagulation of the blood. When the blood is allowed to press upon the fluid in the horizontal limb, the rise of the mercury towards *e*, measured from the level to which it has fallen towards *d*, gives the pressure under which the blood moves.

Fig. 224.

*Hæmadynamometer.*

Estimates by Valentin,<sup>c</sup> as to the force of the heart, make it even less than those of Poiseuille. He states that in man and the higher mammalia, the absolute force exerted by the left ventricle is equal to  $\frac{1}{16}$ th of the weight of the body; and by the right ventricle equal to  $\frac{1}{16}$ th of the same:—thus making the force of the left ventricle to be double that of the right.

<sup>a</sup> Magendie, *Journal de Physiologie*, ix. 46; and art. *Circulation*, *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.*

<sup>b</sup> *Leçons sur le Sang, &c.*, or translation in *Lond. Lancet*, Sept. 1838 to March 1839; in *Bell's Select Medical Library*, p. 57. Philad. 1839.

<sup>c</sup> *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, i. 415, cited by Mr. Paget, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* for Jan., 1845, p. 261.

### b. *Circulation in the Arteries.*

The blood, propelled from the heart by the series of actions we have described, enters the two great blood-vessels;—the pulmonary artery from the right ventricle, and the aorta from the left; the former of which sends it to the lungs, the latter to every part of the system; and, in both vessels, it is prevented from returning into the corresponding ventricles by the depression of the semilunar valves. We have now to inquire into the circumstances, which act upon it in the arteries, or whether it be the contraction of the ventricle, which is alone concerned in its progression.

Harvey<sup>a</sup> and the whole of the mechanical physiologists regarded the arteries as entirely passive in the circulation, and as acting like so many lifeless tubes; the heart being, in their view, the sole agent in the circulation. We have, however, numerous reasons for believing that the arteries are concerned, to a certain degree, in the progression of the blood. If we open a large artery, in a living animal, the blood flows in distinct pulses; but this effect gradually diminishes as the artery recedes from the heart, and ultimately ceases in the smallest arterial ramifications;—seeming to show, that the force, exerted by the heart, is not the only one concerned in propelling the blood through these vessels. It is manifest, too, that if the action of the heart were alone concerned, the blood ought to flow out of the aperture, when the artery is opened, at intervals coinciding with the contractions of the heart; and that during the diastole of the artery, no blood ought to issue. This, however, is not the case, notwithstanding the authority of Bichat, and some others is in its favour. The flow is uninterrupted, but in jets or pulses, coinciding with the contractions of the ventricles.<sup>b</sup> Again, if two ligatures be put around an arterial trunk, at some distance from each other, and a puncture be made between the ligatures, the blood flows with a jet, —indicating that compression is exerted upon it; and if the diameter of the artery be measured with a pair of compasses, before and after the puncture, it will be found manifestly smaller in the latter case;—an experiment which shows the fallacy of a remark of Bichat,—that the force with which the arteries return upon themselves is insufficient to expel the blood they contain. An experiment of Magendie<sup>c</sup> exhibits this yet more clearly. He exposed the crural artery and vein in a dog, and passed a ligature behind the vessels, tying it strongly at the posterior part of the thigh, so that the blood could only pass to the limb by the artery, and return by the vein. He then measured, with a pair of compasses, the diameter of the artery; and on pressing the vessel between his fingers, to intercept the course of blood in it, the artery was observed to diminish perceptibly in size below the part compressed, and to empty itself of the blood it contained. On readmitting the blood, by removing the fingers, the artery became

<sup>a</sup> Exercitatio Anat. De Motu Cordis et Sanguinis, &c. Rotterd. 1648.

<sup>b</sup> Magendie, Précis, ii. 388.

<sup>c</sup> Journal de Physiologie, i. 111; and Précis, &c. ii. 386.



gradually distended at each contraction of the heart, and resumed its previous dimensions.

These facts prove, that the arteries contract; but the kind of contraction has given occasion to much discussion. It has been imagined, by some physiologists, that their proper coat is muscular; and that they exert a similar action on the blood to that of the heart; dilating to receive it from that organ, and contracting to propel it onwards;—their systole being synchronous with the systole of the auricles and the diastole of the ventricles, and their diastole with that of the auricles and the systole of the ventricles. The principal reasons, urged in favour of this view, are;—the fact of the circulation being effected solely by the arteries in acardiac fœtuses, and in animals which have no heart;—the assertion of MM. Lamure and Lafosse, that they noticed, in an experiment with the carotid artery, similar to that described above, that the vessel continued to beat between the ligatures;—the affirmations of Verschuur,<sup>a</sup> Bikker, Giulio, and Rossi,<sup>b</sup> Thomson,<sup>c</sup> Parry,<sup>d</sup> Hastings,<sup>e</sup> Wedemeyer, and numerous others,<sup>f</sup> that when they irritated arteries with the point of a scalpel, or subjected them to the electrical and galvanic influences, they exhibited manifest contractility; and lastly, the fact, that the pulse is not perfectly synchronous in different parts of the body, which ought to be the case, were the arteries not possessed of any distinct action.

The chief objection to the views, founded on the muscularity of the middle coat, has been the want of evidence of the fact. In the anatomical proem to the function of the circulation it was stated, that this coat has not seemed to consist of the fibrous or muscular tissue; and that the experiments of Magendie, Nysten, and others, had not been able to exhibit any contraction, on the application of the ordinary excitants of muscular irritability. The chemical analyses of Berzelius<sup>g</sup> and Young<sup>h</sup> also appear to show, that the transverse fibres differ essentially from those of proper muscles. The recent discovery, however, by Henle, of a structure distinctly muscular in arteries, if confirmed, will tend to remove this objection.

Again, if an artery be exposed in a living animal, we observe none of that contraction and dilatation which is perceptible in the heart; although a manifest pulsation is communicated to the finger placed over it. The phenomena of the pulse will engage attention speedily. We may merely remark, at present, that the pulsations are manifestly more dependent upon the action of the heart than upon that of the arteries. In syncope, they entirely cease; and whilst they continue beneath an aneurismal tumour, because the continuity of the vessel is not destroyed, they completely cease beneath a ligature, so applied

<sup>a</sup> *De Arteriar. et Venar. Vi Irritabili, &c.*, Gröning. 1766.

<sup>b</sup> *Elémens de Médec. Opérat.* Turin, 1806.

<sup>c</sup> *Lectures on Inflammation*, p. 83, Edinb. 1819; also, 2d Amer. edit. Philad. 1831.

<sup>d</sup> *On the Arterial Pulse*, p. 52, Bath, 1816.

<sup>e</sup> *On Inflammation of the Mucous Membrane of the Lungs*, p. 20, Lond. 1820.

<sup>f</sup> See Henle, *Allgemein. Anatom. u. s. w.*, s. 513, Leipz. 1841; and Dr. C. J. B. Williams, *Principles of Medicine*, Amer. edit. by Dr. Clymer, p. 75, Philad. 1844.

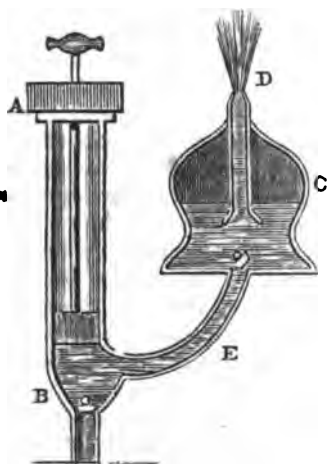
<sup>g</sup> *View of the Progress of Animal Chemistry*, p. 25, Lond. 1813.

<sup>h</sup> *An Introduction to Medical Literature*, p. 501, Lond. 1813.

around an artery as to cut off the flow of blood. Bichat attached an inert tube to the carotid artery of a living animal, so that the blood could flow through it: the same kind of pulsation was observed in it as in the artery. To this he adapted a bag of gummed taffeta, so as to simulate an aneurismal tumour: the pulsations were evidenced in the bag. If, again, arterial blood be passed into a vein, the latter vessel, which has ordinarily no pulsation, now begins to beat; whilst, if blood from a vein be directed into an artery, the latter ceases to beat.\*

Another class of physiologists have reduced the whole of the arterial action to simple elasticity; a property, which the yellow tissue that composes the proper membrane of the artery, seems to possess in an unusual degree. Such is the opinion of Magendie.<sup>b</sup> "Admitting it to be certain," he remarks, "that contraction and dilatation occur in the arteries, I am far from thinking, with some authors of the last century, that they dilate of themselves, and contract in the manner of

muscular fibres. On the contrary, I am certain, that they are passive in both cases,—that is, that their dilatation and contraction are the simple effect of the elasticity of their parietes, put in action by the blood, which the heart sends incessantly into their cavity,"—and he farther remarks, that there is no difference, in this respect, between the large and small arteries. As regards the larger arteries, it is probable that this elasticity is the principal but not the only action exerted; and that it is the cause, why the blood flows in a continuous, though pulsatory, stream, when an opening is made into them; thus acting like the reservoir of air in certain pumps. In the pump A B, represented in the marginal figure, were there no air-vessel C, the water would flow through the pipe



*Section of a Forcing Pump.*

E at each stroke of the piston, but the stream would be interrupted. By means of the air-vessel, this is remedied. The water, at each stroke, is sent into the vessel; the air contained in the air-vessel is thus compressed, and its elasticity thereby augmented; so that it keeps up a constant pressure on the surface of the water, and forces it out of the vessel, through the pipe D, in a nearly uniform stream. Now, in the heart, the contraction of the ventricle acts like the depression of the piston; the blood is propelled into the artery in an interrupted manner, but the elasticity of the blood-vessel presses upon the blood, in the same manner as the air in the air-vessel presses upon the water within it; and thus the blood flows along the vessel in an uninterrupted, although pulsatory, stream.

\* Adelon, *Physiol. de l'Homme*, edit. cit. iii. 380; and art. *Circulation*, in *Dict. de Médecine*, 1ère édit. v. 321, Paris, 1822.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c., edit. cit. ii. 387.

There are many difficulties, however, in the way of admitting the whole of the action of the arteries in the circulation to be dependent upon simple elasticity. The heart of a salamander was opened by Spallanzani,<sup>a</sup> yet the blood continued to flow through the vessels for twelve minutes after the operation. The heart of a tadpole was cut out, yet the circulation was maintained for some time in several of the vascular ramifications of the tail. The heart of the chick in ovo was destroyed immediately after contraction; the arterial blood took a retrograde direction, and the momentum of the venous blood was redoubled. The circulation continued in this manner for eighteen minutes. Dr. Wilson Philip<sup>b</sup> states, that he distinctly saw the circulation in the smaller vessels, for some time after the heart had been removed from the body, and a similar observation was made by Dr. Hastings.<sup>c</sup> The latter gentleman states, that in the large arterial trunks, and even in the veins, he has noticed, in the clearest manner, their contraction on the application of various stimulants, both chemical and mechanical. It is, moreover, well known, that if a small living artery be cut across, it will soon contract so as to arrest hemorrhage; that whilst an animal is bleeding to death the arteries will accommodate themselves to the decreasing quantity of blood in the vessels, and contract beyond the degree to which their elasticity could be presumed to carry them; and that after death they will again relax. Dr. Parry found, that an artery of a living animal, if exposed to the air, will sometimes contract in a few minutes to a great extent; in such case, only a single fibre of the artery may be affected, narrowing the channel in the same way as if a thread were tied round it.

The experiments which have been instituted for the purpose of discovering the dependence of the arterial action on the nervous system have likewise afforded evidences of their capability of assuming a contractile action, and have led to a better comprehension of cases of what have been called local *determinations* of blood. Dr. Philip found, that the motion of the blood in the capillaries is influenced by stimulants applied to the central parts of the nervous system, which must be owing to the capillaries possessing a power of contractility, capable of being aroused to action by the nervous influence. The experiments of Sir Everard Home<sup>d</sup> are, however, more applicable, as they were directed to the larger arteries, respecting which the greatest doubts have been entertained. The carotid artery of a dog was laid bare; the par vagum and great sympathetic, which, in that animal, form one bundle, were separated from it by a flattened probe for one-tenth of an inch in length; the head and neck of the dog were then placed in an easy position, and the pulsations of the carotid artery were attended to by all present for two minutes, in order that the eye might be accustomed to their force in a natural state. The nerve, passing over the probe, was then slightly touched

<sup>a</sup> Experiments on the Circulation, &c., translated by R. Hall, Lond., 1801.

<sup>b</sup> An Experimental Inquiry into the Laws of the Vital Functions, Lond., 1817; and Lond. Med. Gazette, for March 25th, 1837, p. 952.

<sup>c</sup> Op. citat., p. 51.

<sup>d</sup> Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, iii. 57, Lond., 1823.

with caustic potassa. In a minute and a half, the pulsations of the exposed artery became more distinct. In two minutes, the beats were stronger; in four minutes, their violence was lessened; and in five minutes the action was restored to its natural state. The experiment was repeated, with analogous results, upon a rabbit. In this animal, the par vagum was separated from the intercostal nerve; and it was found, that, when the former nerve alone was irritated, no increase took place in the force of the action of the artery. "The carotid artery," says Sir Everard, "was chosen as the only artery in the body of sufficient size, that can be readily exposed, to which the nervous branches, supplying it, can be traced from their trunk. This experiment was repeated three different times, so as to leave no doubts respecting the result." These experiments demonstrate, that, under the nervous influence, an increase or diminution may take place in the contraction of an artery; and they aid us in the explanation of those cases, in which the circulation has been accomplished where the heart has been altogether wanting or completely defective in structure.

Sir Everard instituted some farther experiments, with the view of determining whether heat or cold have the greatest agency in stimulating the nerves to produce this effect upon the artery. The wrist of one arm was surrounded by bladders filled with ice; and after it had remained in that state for five minutes, the pulse of the two wrists was felt at the same time. The beats in that which had been cooled were found to be manifestly stronger. A similar experiment was now made with water, heated to 120° or 130° of Fahrenheit. The pulse was found to be softer and feebler in the heated arm. When one wrist was cooled and the other heated, the stroke of the pulse of the cooled arm had much greater force than that of the heated one. These experiments were repeated upon the wrists of several young men and young women of different ages, with uniform results.

Lastly, we have remarked, and shall have occasion to refer to the matter again, that certain animals, which have no heart,\* have circulating vessels in which contraction and dilatation are perceptible. This is the case with the class *vermes* of Cuvier, and can be seen very distinctly in the *lumbricus marinus* or *lug*, the *leech*, &c. The fact has been invoked both by the believers in the muscular contractility of arteries, and by those who conceive the contractility to be peculiar; but our acquaintance with the intimate structure of the coats of the vessels in those animals is too imperfect for us to assert more than that they are manifestly contractile. In an interesting case of acardiac fœtus examined by Dr. Houston, of Dublin, it seemed impossible that the heart of a twin fœtus could have occasioned the movement of blood in the acardiac one; and hence that there must have been some power in the vessels of the latter—general, or capillary, or both—to effect the circulation through it. In most or all of

\* See a case of this kind in the human fœtus, by Dr. J. S. B. Jackson, of Boston, in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, for February, 1838, p. 362; Dublin Journal of Med. Sciences, No. xxix., for 1837; and for Jan. 1844. See, also, Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, July, 1844. See, also, Prof. Graves, Lond. Med. Gazette, June 30, 1838, p. 562.

these cases, a perfect twin fœtus exists, whose placenta is in some degree united with that of the imperfect one; and the circulation in the latter has usually been attributed to the influence of the heart of the former propagated through the placental vessels.\*

From these and other considerations, the majority of physiologists have admitted a contractile action, not simply in the capillary vessels, but in the larger arterial trunks; and, at the present day, the most general and satisfactory opinion appears to be, that, in addition to the highly elastic property possessed by the middle coat, it is capable of being thrown into contraction; that in the larger vessels this contraction is but little exerted, the action of the artery being mainly produced by its elasticity; but that, in the smaller arterial ramifications, the contractility is more apparent; and in the capillary vessels is scarcely equivocal. To this action of contractility, necessarily connected with the life of the vessel, and differing from both muscular contractility and simple elasticity, Dr. Parry<sup>b</sup> gave the name *tonicity*.<sup>c</sup>

### c. *Circulation through the Capillaries.*

The agency of the capillary vessels in the circulation has been a subject of contention. It was the opinion of Harvey, and it is embraced by J. Müller,<sup>d</sup> that the action of the heart is alone sufficient to send the blood through the whole circuit; but we have seen, that, even when aided by the elasticity and contractility of the arterial trunks, the pulsations of the heart become imperceptible in the smaller arteries; and, hence, that there is some show of reason for the belief, that in the capillary vessels the force may be entirely spent. Were we, indeed, to admit that the force of the heart is sufficient to send the blood through a single capillary circulation, it would be difficult to admit that it could send it through two—as in the portal circulation.<sup>e</sup> Bichat regarded the capillaries as organs of propulsion, and alone concerned in returning the blood to the heart through the veins. Dr. Marshall Hall,<sup>f</sup> on the other hand, denies that we have any proof of irritability in the true capillaries; and Magendie<sup>g</sup> conceives the contraction of the heart to be the principal cause of the passage of the blood through these vessels. In support of this view he adduces the following experiment. Having passed a ligature round the thigh of a dog, so as not to compress the crural artery or vein, he tied the vein near the groin, and made a small opening into the vessel. The blood immediately issued with a considerable jet. He then pressed the artery between the fingers, so as to prevent the arterial blood from passing to the limb. The jet of venous blood did

\* Dr. M. Hall, *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal*, July, 1844. See, also, on this subject, Dr. G. C. Holland, *The Philosophy of the Moving Powers of the Blood*, p. 271, Lond. 1844; and *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, April, 1844, p. 491.

<sup>b</sup> On the Arterial Pulse, p. 52. Bath, 1816.

<sup>c</sup> See Schwann, *Encyclopæd. Wörterbuch der Medicinisch. Wissenschaft*, xiv., Berlin, 1836; and V. Bruns, *Lehrbuch der Allgemeinen Anatomie des Menschen*, s. 85. Braunschweig, 1841.

<sup>d</sup> *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 220. Lond. 1838.

<sup>e</sup> Dr. G. C. Holland, *op. cit.* p. 221.

<sup>f</sup> A Critical and Experimental Essay on the Circulation, &c., p. 78, Lond. 1831, reprinted in this country. Philad. 1835.

<sup>g</sup> *Précis*, &c., ii. 390.

not, however, stop. It continued for some moments, but went on diminishing, and the flow was arrested, although the vein was filled throughout its whole extent. When the artery was examined during these events, it was observed to contract gradually, and at length became completely empty when the course of the blood in the vein ceased. At this stage of the experiment, the compression was removed from the artery; the blood immediately passed into the artery, and, as soon as it had reached the final divisions, it began to flow again through the opening in the vein, and the jet was gradually restored. On compressing the artery again until it was emptied, and afterwards allowing the arterial blood to pass slowly along the vessel, the discharge from the vein occurred, but without any jet; the jet was resumed, however, as soon as the artery was entirely free.

This experiment is not so convincing to us as it appears to be to M. Magendie. The chief fact, which it exhibits, is the elastic, and probably contractile, power of the arteries. It might have been expected, *a priori*, under any hypothesis, that the quantity of blood discharged from the vein would hold a ratio to that sent by the artery; and, consequently, the experiment appears to us to bear but little on the question regarding the separate contractile action of the capillaries. It is difficult, indeed, to believe, that such an action does not exist. In addition to the circumstance, already mentioned, of the absence of pulsation in the smaller arteries, almost every writer on the theory of inflammation considers the fact of a distinct action of the capillaries established, and leaves to the physiologist the by no means easy task of proving it. Dr. Wilson Philip<sup>a</sup> placed the web of a frog's foot in the microscope, and distinctly saw the capillaries contract upon the application of those stimulants which produce contraction of the muscular fibre. The results of Dr. Thomson's<sup>b</sup> experiments, in investigating the subject of inflammation, were the same, as well as those of Dr. Hastings.<sup>c</sup> The facts, which we have already referred to, regarding the continuance of the circulation in the minute vessels after the heart has been removed, are confirmatory of the same point; as well as the observation of Dr. Philip, that the blood in the capillaries is influenced by stimulants applied to the central parts of the nervous system. The experiments of Thomson, Philip, and Hastings, were repeated by Wedemeyer,<sup>d</sup> with great care. The circulation in the mesentery of the frog, and in the web of its foot, being observed through the microscope, it was evident, that no change occurred in the diameter of the small arteries, or in that of the capillaries, so long as the circulation was allowed to go on in its natural state; but as soon as excitants were applied to them, an alteration of their calibre was perceptible. Alcohol arrested the flow of blood without inducing much apparent contraction of the vessels. Chloride of sodium, in the course of three or four minutes, caused the vessels to contract one-fifth of their calibre, which contraction was

<sup>a</sup> A Treatise on Febrile Diseases, 3d edit. ii. 17, London. 1813; and Medico-Chirur. Transact. vol. xii. p. 401.

<sup>b</sup> Lectures on Inflammation, p. 83, Edinb. 1813.

<sup>c</sup> Op. citat.

<sup>d</sup> Untersuch. über die Krieslauf, u. s. w., Hannover, 1828; and Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ. vol. xxxii.

followed by dilatation of the vessels, and a gradual retardation and stoppage of the blood. In a space of time varying from ten to thirty seconds, and sometimes immediately after the application of the galvanic circle, the vessels contracted, some one-fourth, others one-half, and others three-fourths of their calibre. The contraction sometimes continued for a considerable time, occasionally several hours; in other instances, it ceased in ten minutes, and the vessels resumed their natural diameter. A second application of galvanism to the same capillaries seldom caused any material contraction.<sup>a</sup> Schwann<sup>b</sup> likewise found, that when cold water was poured on the vessels of a frog, which had been previously in a warm atmosphere, the capillaries immediately contracted, but after a time regained their diameter. Farther, Mr. Hunter found that on exposing arteries to the air, they contracted so much as to occasion obliteration of their tubes; and it is well known, that when arteries—as the temporal—are divided, hemorrhage may be arrested by the spontaneous contraction of the divided extremity,—a contraction, which, as remarked by Dr. Carpenter, is much greater than could be accounted for by simple elasticity of tissue, and is more marked in small than in large vessels.<sup>c</sup>

All these facts prove the existence of a vital power in the capillaries, capable of modifying, to considerable extent, the flow of blood through them.<sup>d</sup>

Again, of this independent action of the capillary vessels we have, every day, proofs in local inflammation; in which there may be increased redness of a part, without the general circulation exhibiting the slightest evidences of augmented action or excitement. In the natural state, the vessels of the tunica conjunctiva covering the white of the eye receive little blood; but if any cause of irritation exists, as a grain of sand entering between the eyelids, we find blood rapidly sent into them, giving the appearance which has been termed, not inappropriately, “blood-shot.”<sup>e</sup> In the experiments of Kaltenbrunner,<sup>f</sup> which were fully confirmed on repetition, the blood was at first observed, in inflammation, streaming to the irritated part, in consequence of which the capillary vessels became distended; afterwards irregularity of circulation occurred in the gorged capillary system; and subsequently complete arrestation of the circulation, and disorganization. These phenomena are of themselves sufficient to prove the existence of the separate action of the capillaries, and when taken in conjunction with other facts, are overwhelming. The blush of modesty, and the paleness of guilt, the hectic glow, and the translucency

<sup>a</sup> Richerand's *Elémens de Physiologie*, 13ème édit. par Bérard aîné, édit. Belge, p. 125, Bruxelles, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Müller's *Archives*, 1836, and *Lond. Med. Gazette*, May, 1837; and Müller's *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 206. <sup>c</sup> *Human Physiology*, § 502, Lond. 1842.

<sup>d</sup> Purkinje, in *Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft*, vii. 660, Berlin, 1831; Prof. Graves, *Lond. Med. Gazette*, June 30, 1838, p. 561; Gerdy, *Dict. de Méd.* viii. p. 60; Dubois d'Amiens, *L'Expérience*, No. cixxi. 1840; and Dr. Calvert Holland, *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, July, 1842, and in his work on *The Philosophy of the Moving Powers of the Blood*, p. 187, London, 1844; and V. Bruns, *Lehrbuch de Physiologie des Menschen*, s. 73, Braunschweig, 1841. <sup>e</sup> Thomson's *Lectures on Inflammation*, Edinb. 1813.

<sup>f</sup> *Experimenta circa Statum Sanguinis et Vasorum in Inflammatione*, p. 23, Monach. 1826.

of congelation are all circumstances, that go to establish the same point.

The contractile power of the capillaries is doubtless modified by the condition of the ganglionic nerves distributed to them, which, as we have seen, are observed to increase as the size of the vessels and the thickness of their coats diminish. Their influence is, indeed, strikingly evinced in actions, which are altogether nervous, as in the flushed countenance occasioned by sudden mental emotions. By some, however, the whole capillary circulation has been ascribed to the motive faculty inherent in the globules of the blood; whilst others, again, have asserted, that the "electro-galvanic power,"—or in other words—the nervous power, generated in the nervous system, and acting on the blood globules through the parietes of the capillary system of vessels, is the immediate agent directing the movements or circulation in the capillaries: all this, however, enters into the inscrutable question of what is the cause of life in the fluids or tissues,—a question to be agitated, but not solved, in a subsequent part of this volume.<sup>a</sup>

But, not only has a vital power of contraction been conceded to the capillaries; it has been imagined, that they possess what the Germans call a *Lebenssturgor* (*turgor vitalis*) or vital property of expansibility or turgescence. Such appears to be the opinion of Hebenstreit<sup>b</sup> and of Prus;<sup>c</sup> and it has been embraced, in this country, by Professor Smith of Yale College, by his son, Professor N. R. Smith of Baltimore, in his excellent work on the "Arteries,"<sup>d</sup> and by Professor Hodge<sup>e</sup> of Philadelphia. The idea has been esteemed to be confirmed by the fact of excitants having been seen under the microscope, by Hastings, Wedemeyer, and others, to occasion not only contraction but dilatation of the capillaries. The phenomena, observed in the erectile tissues, have likewise been considered to favour the hypothesis; but, in answer to these arguments, it may be replied, that the irregular excitation, produced in the parts by the application of powerful stimulants, might readily give occasion to an appearance of expansibility under the microscope, without our being justified in inferring, that these vessels possess an innate vital property of expansibility; and, in many of the cases, in which ammonia and galvanism were applied by Thomson, Hastings, Wedemeyer, and others, the action of contraction ought rather to be esteemed physical or chemical, than vital.<sup>f</sup> The results of the application of such excitants, as diluted alcohol, dilute solutions of ammonia and of chloride of sodium, can alone be adduced as evidences of vital action on the part of these vessels. The dilatation of the capillary system and of the smaller arteries, which has been remarked on the contact of these agents, is

<sup>a</sup> See Alison's *Outlines of Physiology*, Supplement to 2d edit., Edinb., 1836; and A *Short Inquiry into the Capillary Circulation, &c.*, by James Black, M. D., Lond., 1825.

<sup>b</sup> *Dissert. de Turgore Vitali*, Lips., 1795; Hildebrandt's *Physiologie*, Aufg. 5, § 84; and Tiedemann's *Physiologie*, trad. par Jourdan, p. 625, Paris, 1831.

<sup>c</sup> *De l'Irritation, &c.*, Paris, 1825.

<sup>d</sup> *Surgical Anatomy of the Arteries*, 2d edit., Baltimore, 1835.

<sup>e</sup> *North Amer. Med. and Surg. Journal*, June, 1828. See, also, Prof. Graves, in *Lond. Med. Gazette*, for June 30, and July 7, 1838.

<sup>f</sup> *Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, B. iv. Leipz. 1832.

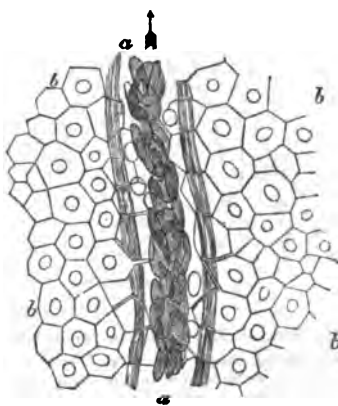


not, as Oesterreicher<sup>a</sup> has remarked, the primary effect: it is the consequence of the afflux of blood to the irritated part, as is also demonstrated in the experiments of Kaltenbrunner on inflammation, to which allusion has been made. Lastly, attentive observation of the phenomena presented by the erectile tissues must lead to the conclusion that the turgescence of the vessels is not the first link in the chain of phenomena; excitation is first induced in the nerves of the part—generally through the influence of the brain, and from thence, perhaps, through the sympathetic nerve,—and the afflux of fluid supervenes on this.<sup>b</sup> The vital expansibility of the capillaries cannot then, we think, be regarded as proved, or probable.

The circulation through the capillaries has long been an interesting topic of microscopic research. According to Wagner,<sup>c</sup> a magnifying power of from two to three hundred diameters is required to make out the particular details. The blood in mass, or in the larger channels, he says, is seen to flow more rapidly than in the smaller. Here the blood corpuscles advance with great rapidity, especially in the arteries, and with a whirling motion, and form a closely crowded stream in the middle of the vessel, without ever touching its parietes. With a little attention, a narrower

and clearer, but always very distinct, space is seen to remain between the great middle current of blood corpuscles and the walls of the vessel, in which a few white corpuscles, or what Wagner considers to be lymph corpuscles (?) (see vol. i., p. 629), are moved onwards, but at a much slower rate. These white corpuscles swim in smaller numbers in the transparent liquor sanguinis, and glide slowly, and in general smoothly, though they sometimes advance by fits and starts more rapidly, but with intervening pauses; and, as a general rule, at least ten or twelve times more slowly than the corpuscles of the central stream. The clear space, filled with the liquor sanguinis and white corpuscles, is obvious in all the larger capillaries, whether arterial or venous, but it ceases to be apparent in the smaller intermediate vessels which admit but one or two rows of blood corpuscles (Fig. 213). In these vessels, the two sets of globules proceed

Fig. 226.



*Small Venous Branch, from the Web of a Frog's Foot, magnified 350 diameters.*

*b, b.* Cells of pavement epithelium, containing nuclei. In the space between the current of oval blood corpuscles, and the walls of the vessel, the round transparent lymph-globules (?) are seen.—(Wagner.)

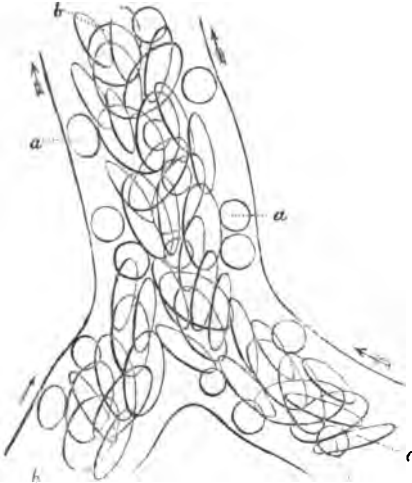
<sup>a</sup> Versuch einer Darstellung der Lehre vom Kreisläufe des Blutes, Nürnberg, 1826.

<sup>b</sup> Rullier, art. Expansibilité in Dict. de Méd. viii. 423, Paris, 1823; and Purkinje, in art. Circulatio Sanguinis, in Encyclopæd. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft. b. vii. 2. 667, Berl., 1831.

<sup>c</sup> Elements of Physiology, translated by R. Willis, § 122, Lond., 1842.

*pari passu*; but, according to Wagner, it is easy to see, that the blood corpuscles glide more readily onwards—the white corpus-

Fig. 227.



*Large Vein of Frog's Foot, magnified 600 diameters.*

*b, c. Blood corpuscles. a, a. Lymph corpuscles (!) principally conspicuous in the clear space near the parietes of the vessel.—(Wagner.)*

cles seeming often to be detained at the bendings of vessels, and at the angles, where anastomosing branches are given off: here they remain adherent for an instant, and then suddenly proceed onwards. These phenomena are observed in every part of the peripheral systemic circulation; but an exception appears to exist in the pulmonary circulation; the capillaries there being filled with both kinds of globules to their very walls.

It is in this—the intermediate—part of the sanguiferous system, that most important functions take place. In the smallest artery, we find arterial blood; and in the smallest vein, communicating with it, blood always possessing the venous properties. Between those points, a change must have occurred, precisely the reverse of that which happens in the lungs. It is in this very part, too, that nutrition, secretion, and calorification are effected. In the explanation of these functions, we shall find it impossible not to suppose a distinct and elective agency in the tissues concerned; and as it is by such agency, that the varying activity of the different functions is regulated, we are constrained to believe, that the capillary vessels may be able to exert a controlling influence over the quantity and velocity of the blood circulating in them.

In disease, the agency of this system of vessels is an object of attentive study with the pathologist. To its influence in inflammation, we have already alluded; but it is no less exemplified in the more general diseases of the frame,—as in the cold, hot, and sweating stages of an intermittent. Local, irregular capillary action is, indeed, one of the most common causes of acute affections, and these, generally occur in some organ, at a distance from the seat of the deranging influence. It is a common and just observation, that getting the feet wet, and sitting in a draught of air, are more certain causes of catarrh than sudden atmospheric vicissitudes, which apply to the whole body; and so extensive is the sympathy between the various portions of this system of vessels, that the most diversified effects will be produced in different individuals exposed to the same common cause; one may have inflammatory sore throat; another,

ordinary catarrh; another, inflammation of the bowels;—according to the precise predisposition, existing in the individual at the time to have one structure morbidly affected rather than another;—but these are interesting topics, which belong more strictly to the pathologist.

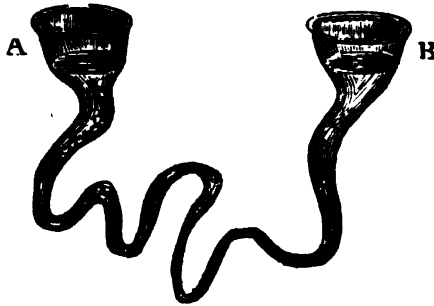
By the united action, then, of the heart, the arteries, and the capillary or intermediate system of vessels, the blood attains the veins. We have now to consider the circulation in those vessels.

d. *Circulation in the Veins.*

It has been already observed, that Harvey considered the force of the heart to be of itself sufficient to return the blood, sent from the left ventricle, to the heart; whilst Bichat conceived the whole propulsive effort to be lost in

the capillaries, and the transmission of the blood along the veins to be entirely effected by the agency of the capillary system. It is singular, that an individual of such distinguished powers of discrimination should have been led into an error of such magnitude. It is a well-known principle in hydrostatics, that although water, when unconfined, can never

Fig. 228.



rise above its level at any point, and can never move upwards; yet, by being confined in pipes or close channels of any kind, it will rise to the height from which it came. Hence the water or blood in the vessel A, Fig. 228, which may be considered to represent the right auricle, would stand at the same height as that in the vessel B, which we may look upon as the left ventricle, were they inanimate tubes. We need be at no loss, therefore, in understanding how the blood might attain the right auricle, when the body is erect, by this hydrostatic principle alone; but we have seen, that the force exerted by the heart, by the arteries, and by the capillary system is superadded to this, so that the blood would rise much higher than the right auricle, and consequently exert a manifest effort to enter it. It may be remarked, also, that the left ventricle is not the true height of the source, but the top of the arch of the aorta, which is more elevated, by several inches, than the right auricle. A similar view is embraced by Dr. Billing;<sup>a</sup> but Dr. Carpenter,<sup>b</sup>—in commenting on the author's observations on this subject—suggests, that the influence of this hydrostatic force would scarcely be felt through the plexus of capillary vessels; “for the interposition of a system of tubes even of much larger calibre would be, by the friction created between the fluid and their walls, an effectual obstacle to the rapid ascent of a current, which had so slight an impetus as that derived from its previous fall.”

<sup>a</sup> First Principles of Medicine, Amer. edit. p. 36, Philad. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Human Physiology, § 516, Lond. 1842.

The author did not mean, however, to say more than that the blood "might attain" the right auricle by the hydrostatic force alone: he did not wish to convey the idea, that the circulation could be carried on without the aid of an additional force; but that a slight effort only on the part of the heart and arteries might be needed to enable the blood to perform its entire circuit. It is proper to add, that in the last edition of his valuable work, Dr. Carpenter<sup>a</sup> has omitted those comments on the observations of the author.

Are we then to regard the veins as simple elastic tubes? This is the prevalent belief. Their elasticity is, however, much less than that of the arteries. Some physiologists have conceived them to possess also contractile properties. Such is the opinion of Broussais,<sup>b</sup> who founds it, in part, upon certain experiments by Sarlandière, already referred to, in which contraction and relaxation of the *venæ cavæ* of a frog were seen for many minutes after the heart was removed from the body. These pulsations of the *venæ cavæ*, and also of the pulmonary veins in their natural state, have been seen by numerous observers—by Steno, Lower, Wepfer, Borrachius, Whytt, Haller, Lancisi, Müller, Marshall Hall, Flourens, J. J. Allison, and others.<sup>c</sup> The experiments of Dr. Allison, in reference to the *venæ cavæ* and pulmonary veins, appeared to him to prove,—that they pulsate near the heart in the four classes of the vertebrata,—that in dying animals they pulsate long after the auricle and ventricle have ceased to beat,—that they will also beat even in quadrupeds, for hours after they have been separated from the heart and from the body;—and that they can be stimulated to contract either when in or out of the body, by mechanical and galvanic means, especially by the latter, after all motion has ceased for some time.

It seems to be very doubtful, whether the veins generally possess any sensible contraction like that of the *venæ cavæ* and pulmonary veins near the heart, for although irritated by galvanic and mechanical stimuli by Haller, Nysten, Müller, J. J. Allison, and others, no motion whatever could be detected in them.<sup>d</sup> Gerber affirms, that the fibres of the middle coat of the veins bear a stronger resemblance to those of muscular tissue than do those of the corresponding part of the arteries, which resemble more the ordinary elastic fibres; but Dr. Carpenter<sup>e</sup> thinks it not improbable, that his observations were made on portions of the veins near the heart, which partake of its contractility.

In the experiments of Dr. Marshall Hall,<sup>f</sup> on the circulation in the web of the frog's foot, he was almost invariably able to detect, with a good microscope, a degree of pulsatory acceleration of the blood in the arteries at each contraction of the heart; and he is disposed to

<sup>a</sup> Human Physiology, 2d edit. Lond. 1844.

<sup>b</sup> *Traité de Physiologie*, &c., Drs. Bell and La Roche's translation, p. 391, Philad. 1832. See, also, Müller's *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 171, Lond. 1838.

<sup>c</sup> See the experiments of the last named gentleman proving the existence of a venous pulse independent of the Heart and Nervous System, in *Amer. Journal of the Medical Sciences*, Feb. 1839, p. 306.

<sup>d</sup> J. Müller, *Elements of Physiology*, p. 170, Lond. 1838, and J. J. Allison, *op. cit.*, p. 320.

<sup>e</sup> Human Physiology, § 514, note. Lond. 1842.

<sup>f</sup> *Essay on the Circulation*, ch. i., Lond. 1831, and Philad. 1835.

conclude, from his observations, that the natural circulation is rapid, and entirely pulsatory in the minute arteries, and slow and equable in the capillary and venous systems. But whenever the circulation was in the slightest degree impeded, the pulsatory movement became very manifest at each systole of the heart, and it was seen in all the three systems of vessels—arterial, capillary, and venous. He observed, that in the arteries there was generally an alternate, more or less rapid flow of the globules at each systole and diastole of the ventricle; and that in the capillaries and veins the blood was often completely arrested during the diastole, and again propelled by a pulsatory movement during the systole; all which he esteems conclusive proof, that the power and influence of the heart extend through the arteries to the capillaries, and through these to the veins, even in the extreme parts of the body.

That the veins are possessed of elasticity is proved by the operation of bloodletting, in which a part of the jet, on puncturing the vein, is owing to the over-distended vessel returning upon itself; but that this property exists to a trifling extent only, is shown by the varicose state of the vessels, which is so frequently seen in the lower extremities.

*e. Forces that propel the Blood.*

From the inquiry into the agency of the different circulatory organs in propelling the blood, it is manifest, that the action of the heart, the elasticity of the arteries, and a certain degree of contractile action, in the smaller vessels more especially, a distinct action of the capillary vessels, and a slight elastic and perhaps contractile action on the part of the veins, may be esteemed the chief agents. Of these, the action of the heart and capillaries, and the contraction of the arteries and veins, can alone be regarded as sources of motion, the elasticity of the vessels being simple directors, not generators of force. But there is another agency, which is probably more efficient than has been generally conceived. This is the *suction power* of the heart, or *derivation*, as it has been termed, to which attention has been chiefly directed by Haller,<sup>a</sup> Wilson,<sup>b</sup> Carson,<sup>c</sup> Zugenbühler, Schubarth, Platner, Blumenbach,<sup>d</sup> and others; but which is not assented to by Oesterreicher,<sup>e</sup> Müller,<sup>f</sup> and some others.<sup>g</sup> It is presumed, that the muscular fibres of the heart are mixed up with a large quantity of cellular tissue; and that, whilst the contraction of the cavities is effected by the action of the muscular fibres, dilatation is produced by the relaxation of the contracted fibres, and the elasticity of the cellular tissue; so that when the heart has contracted, and sent its blood onwards, its elasticity instantly restores it to its dilated condition; a vacuum is

<sup>a</sup> Elem. Physiol., ii. lib. vi.

<sup>b</sup> Enquiry into the Moving Powers employed in the Circulation of the Blood. Lond. 1784.

<sup>c</sup> Inquiry into the Causes of the Motion of the Blood, 2d edit., Lond. 1833.

<sup>d</sup> Tiedemann's Traité de Physiol., par Jourdan, p. 347; and Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, iv. 270, Leipz. 1832.

<sup>e</sup> Lehre vom Kreislauf des Blutes, Nürnberg, 1826.

<sup>f</sup> Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 173.

<sup>g</sup> Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 575, Lond. 1842.

formed, and the blood rushes in to fill it. This action has been compared by Dr. Bostock,<sup>a</sup> and by Dr. Southwood Smith,<sup>b</sup> Prof. Turner,<sup>c</sup> and others, to that of an elastic gum bottle, which, when filled with water, and compressed by the hand, allows the fluid to be driven from its mouth with a velocity proportionate to the compressing force. But the instant the pressure is removed, elasticity begins to operate, and if the mouth of the bottle be now immersed in water, a considerable quantity of that fluid will be drawn up into the bottle, in consequence of the vacuum formed within it. The existence of this force is confirmed by Döllinger,<sup>d</sup>—who, when examining the embryo of birds, saw the blood advance along the veins, whilst the venous trunks poured it into the auricles at the moment when they dilated to receive it; as well as by Dr. T. Robinson,<sup>e</sup> and M. Cruveilhier,<sup>f</sup> who were forcibly struck with the activity with which the diastole was effected, in the cases of monstrosity more than once referred to. Dr. Carpenter<sup>g</sup> thinks it very doubtful “how far the auricles have such a power of active dilatation as would be required for this purpose;” but the question need not regard the auricles. It is but necessary to suppose, that an action or power of dilatation exists in the ventricles; and this is now generally admitted. He farther remarks, that it has been shown experimentally by Dr. Arnott and others, that no suction power exerted at the farther end of a long tube, whose walls are as deficient in firmness as those of the veins are, can occasion any acceleration in a current of fluid transmitted through it; for the effect of the suction is destroyed at no great distance from the point at which it is applied by the flapping together of the sides of the vessel; but in answer to this it may be observed, that it remains to be shown, that such flapping of the sides would necessarily occur in the veins, which are living vessels, and constantly receiving blood from the capillaries under the action of vital forces.

Another accessory force, which has been invoked, is the suction power of the chest, or the *inspiration of venous blood*, as it has been termed. This is conceived to be effected by the same mechanism as that which draws air into the chest. The chest is dilated during inspiration; an approach to a vacuum occurs in the thorax; and the blood, as well as the air, is forcibly drawn towards that cavity. On the other hand, during expiration all the thoracic viscera are compressed; the venous blood is repelled from the chest, and the arterial blood reaches its destination with greater celerity, owing to the action of the expiratory muscles being added to that of the left ventricle. Haller,<sup>h</sup> Lamure,<sup>i</sup> and Lorry,<sup>j</sup> had observed, that the blood, in the external jugular vein, moves under manifestly different influences

<sup>a</sup> Physiology, 3d edit., p. 251, Lond. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Animal Physiology, (Library of Useful Knowledge,) p. 83, Lond. 1839.

<sup>c</sup> Edinb. Medico-chirurg. Transact., iii. 225.

<sup>d</sup> Denkschriften der Königl. Akademie der Wissenschaft. zu München, vii. 217; and Burdach, op. citat., p. 272.

<sup>e</sup> American Journal of the Medical Sciences, No. xxii.

<sup>f</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, 7 Août, 1841, p. 535; and Brit. and Foreign Medical Review, Oct. 1841, p. 535.

<sup>g</sup> Human Physiology, § 515, Lond. 1842.

<sup>h</sup> Elementa Physiologie, tom. ii.

<sup>i</sup> Mém. de l'Acad. des Sciences, pour 1749.

<sup>j</sup> Magendie, Précis, &c. ii. 416.

during inspiration and expiration. Generally, when the chest is dilated in inspiration, the vein empties itself briskly, becomes flat, and its sides are occasionally accurately applied against each other;—but, during expiration, the vein rises and becomes filled with blood;—effects, which are more evident, when the respiratory movements are more extensive. The explanation of this phenomenon by Haller and Lorry is the one given above.

To discover whether the same thing happens to the *venæ cavæ*, Magendie introduced a gum elastic catheter into the jugular vein, so as to penetrate the vena cava and even the right auricle;—the blood was observed to flow from the extremity of the tube at the time of expiration only. During inspiration, air was rapidly drawn into the heart, giving rise to the symptoms to be mentioned hereafter, which attend the reception of air into that organ. Similar results were obtained, when the tube was introduced into the crural vein in the direction of the abdomen. So far as regards the larger venous trunks, therefore, the influence of respiration on the circulation is sufficiently evidenced.\*

It can be easily shown, by opening an artery of the limbs, that expiration manifestly accelerates the motion of arterial blood; especially in forced expiration, and during violent exertion. In animals, subjected to experiment, it is impracticable to excite either the forced expiration or the violent effort at pleasure; but we can, as a substitute, compress the sides of the chest with the hands, according to the plan recommended by Lamure, when the blood will be found to flow more or less copiously in proportion to the pressure exerted. It occurred to Magendie, that this effect of respiration on the course of the blood in the arteries might influence the flow along the veins. To prove this, he passed a ligature around one of the jugular veins of a dog. The vessel emptied itself beneath the ligature, and became turgid above it. He then made a slight puncture with the lancet in the distended portion; and in this way obtained a jet of blood, which was not sensibly modified by the ordinary respiratory movements, but became of triple or quadruple the size, when the animal struggled. As it might be objected to this experiment, that the effect of respiration was not transmitted by the arteries to the open vein, but rather by the veins that had remained free, which might have conveyed the blood repelled from the vena cava towards the tied vein by means of anastomoses, the experiment was varied. The dog has not, like man, large internal jugular veins, which receive the blood from the interior of the head. The circulation from the head and neck is, in it, almost wholly confined to the external jugular veins, which are extremely large; the internal jugulars being little more than *vestigies*. By tying both of these veins at once, Magendie made sure of obviating, in great part, the reflux in question; but, instead of this double ligature diminishing the phenomenon under consideration, the jet became more closely connected with the respiratory movement; for it was manifestly modified even by ordinary respiration, which was not the case when a single ligature was employed.

\* See, also, Poiseuille, in Magendie's *Journal de Physiologie*, viii. 272.

From these and other experiments, Magendie properly concludes, that the turgescence of the veins must not be ascribed, with Haller, Lamure, and Lorry, simply to the reflux of the blood of the *venæ cavæ* into the branches opening directly or indirectly into them; but that it is partly owing to the blood being sent in larger quantity into the veins from the arteries.<sup>a</sup>

In the same manner are explained—the rising and sinking of the brain, which, as was observed in an early part of this work, (vol. i., p. 87,) are synchronous with expiration and inspiration. During expiration, the thoracic and abdominal viscera are compressed; the blood is driven more into the branches of the ascending aorta, and it is, at the same time, prevented from returning by the veins: owing to the combination of these causes, the brain is raised during expiration. In inspiration all this pressure is removed; the blood is free to pass equally by the descending as by the ascending aorta; the return by the veins is ready, and the brain therefore sinks.<sup>b</sup> We can thus, also, explain why the face is red and swollen during crying, running, straining, and the violent emotions; and why pain is augmented in local inflammations of an extremity,—as in cases of whitlow, and when respiration is hurried or impeded by running, crying, &c. The blood accumulates in the part, owing to the compound effect of increased flow by the arteries, and impeded return by the veins. The same explanation applies to the production of hemorrhage by any violent exertion; and Bourdon<sup>c</sup> affirms, that he has always seen hemorrhage from the nose largely augmented during expiration, diminished at the time of inspiration, and arrested by prolonged inspiration;—a therapeutical fact of some interest.

It is manifest, then, that the circulation is modified by the movements of inspiration and expiration,<sup>d</sup>—the former facilitating the flow of blood to the heart by the veins, and the latter encouraging the flow by the arteries; and we shall see hereafter, that there is great reason for the belief, that the dilatation of the chest,—which constitutes the first inspiration of the new-born child,—is a great cause of the establishment of the new circulation; the same dilatation, which causes the entrance of air into the air-cells, soliciting the flow of blood, or the “inspiration of venous blood,” as Magendie<sup>e</sup> has termed it. In a paper read before the Royal Society of London, in June, 1835, Dr. Wardrop,<sup>f</sup>—after remarking, that he considers inspiration as an auxiliary to the venous, and expiration to the arterial circulation,—attempts, on this principle, to explain the influence exerted on the circulation, and on the action of the heart, by various modes of respiration, whether voluntary or involuntary, in different circumstances. Laughter,

<sup>a</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 421.

<sup>b</sup> This motion of the brain must not be confounded with that which is synchronous with the contraction of the left ventricle; and which is owing to the pulsation of the arteries at the base of the brain.

<sup>c</sup> Recherches sur le Mécanisme de la Respiration et sur la Circulation du Sang. Paris, 1820.

<sup>d</sup> Dr. Clendinning's Report to the Brit. Association, 1839–40, in Lond. Med. Gazette, Nov. 13, 1840, p. 270.

<sup>e</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 416.

<sup>f</sup> On the Nature and Treatment of the Diseases of the Heart; with some new views of the Physiology of the Circulation. Lond. 1837.



crying, weeping, sobbing, and sighing, he regards as efforts made with a view to effect certain alterations in the quantity of blood in the lungs and heart, when the circulation has been disturbed by mental emotions. The influence of ordinary respiration can, however, be but trifling; yet it has been brought forward by Sir David Barry<sup>a</sup> as the efficient cause of venous circulation. His reasons for this belief are,—the facts just mentioned, regarding the influence of inspiration on the flow of blood towards the heart, and certain ingeniously modified experiments, tending to the elucidation of the same result. He introduced one end of a spirally convoluted tube into the jugular vein of an animal, and plunged the other into a vessel filled with a coloured fluid. During inspiration, the fluid passed from the vessel into the vein: during expiration, it remained stationary in the tube, or was repelled into the vessel. Dr. Bostock<sup>b</sup> remarks, that he was present at some experiments, which were performed by Sir David at the Veterinary College in London, and it appeared sufficiently obvious, that when one end of a glass tube was inserted either into the large veins, into the cavity of the thorax, or into the pericardium,—the other end being plunged into a vessel of coloured water,—the water was seen to rise up the tube during inspiration, and to descend during expiration. The conclusion of Sir David from these experiments is most comprehensive;—that “the circulation in the great veins depends upon atmospheric pressure in all animals possessing the power of contracting and dilating a cavity around that point, to which the centripetal current of their circulation is directed;” and he conceives, that as, during inspiration, a vacuum is formed around the heart, the equilibrium of pressure is destroyed, and the atmosphere acts upon the superficial veins, propelling their contents onwards to supply the vacuum.

Independently of other objections, there are a few, which appear to us convincing against the sole agency of ordinary respiration in effecting venous circulation. According to Sir David's hypothesis, blood ought to arrive at the heart at the time of inspiration only; and as there are, on the average, seventy-two contractions of the heart for every eighteen inspirations; or four contractions, or—what is the same thing—four dilatations of the auricle for each respiration; one of these only ought to be concerned in the propulsion of blood, whilst the rest should be bloodless; yet we feel no difference in the strength of the four pulsations. It is clear, too, if we adopt Sir David's reasoning, that, of the four pulsations, two, and consequently two dilatations of the auricles, must occur during expiration, at which time the capacity of the chest is actually diminished: moreover, holding the breath ought to suspend the circulation; and the respiratory influence cannot be invoked to explain the circulation in the fœtus or in aquatic animals. At the most, therefore, respiration can only be regarded as a feeble auxiliary in the circulation. In favour of Dr. Barry's opinion of the efficiency of atmospheric pressure in

<sup>a</sup> Experimental Researches on the Influence of Atmospheric Pressure upon the Circulation of the Blood, &c. Lond. 1826.

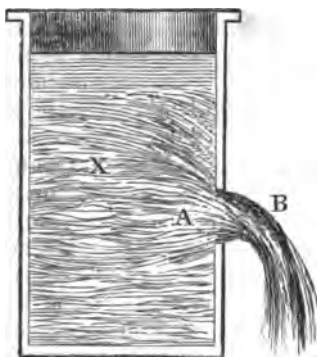
<sup>b</sup> Physiology, 3d edit. p. 330, note. Lond. 1836.

causing the return of the blood by the veins, he adduces the fact,—already referred to, under the head of Absorption,—that the application of an exhausted vessel over a poisoned wound prevents the absorption of the poison; but this, as we have seen, appears to be a physical effect, which would apply equally to any view of the subject.

In all these cases, the elastic resilience of the lungs, by contributing to diminish the atmospheric pressure from the outer surface of the auricles, may, likewise, as suggested by Dr. Carson,<sup>a</sup> have some agency in soliciting the blood into these cavities, but the agency cannot be great.<sup>b</sup>

There is another circumstance of a purely physical nature, which

Fig. 229.



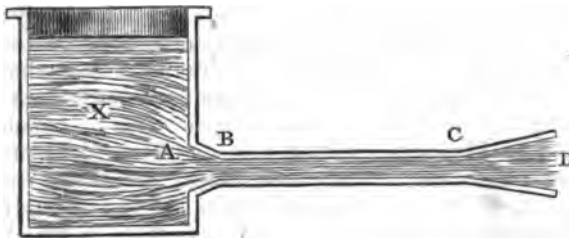
Vena Contracta.

may exert some influence upon the flow of the blood along the veins; viz., the expanded termination of the venæ cavæ in the right auricle. To explain this, it is necessary to premise a detail of a few hydraulic facts. If an aperture A, Fig. 229, exist in a cistern X, the water will not issue at the aperture by a stream of uniform size; but, at a short distance from the reservoir, it will be contracted as at B, constituting what has been termed the *vena contracta*. Now, it has been found, that if a tube, technically called an *adjutage*, be attached to this aperture, so as to accurately fit the stream, as at

A B, Fig. 230, as much fluid will flow from the reservoir as if the aperture alone existed.

Again, if the pipe B C be attached to the adjutage A B, the ex-

Fig. 230.



Vena Contracta.

expanded extremity at A will occasion the flow of water, from the reservoir, to be greater than it would be, if no such expanded extremity existed, in the ratio, according to Venturi, of 12·1

to 10; and if to the tube B C, a truncated conical tube C D be attached, the length of which is nearly nine times the diameter of C; and the diameter of C to that of D be as 1 to 8; the flow of water will be augmented in the proportion of 24 to 12·1; so that, by the two adjutages A B and C D, the expenditure through the pipe B C is increased

<sup>a</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1820, and An Inquiry into the Causes of Respiration, &c., 3d edit. Liverpool, 1833.

<sup>b</sup> On the Influence of Respiration on the Motion of the Blood, see Dr. G. Calvert Holland, The Philosophy of the Moving Powers of the Blood, pp. 25 to 77, Lond. 1844.

in the ratio of 24 to 10. This fact,—the result of direct experiment, and so important to those who contract to supply water by means of pipes,—was known to the Romans. Private persons, according to Frontinus,<sup>a</sup> were in the habit of purchasing the right of delivering water in their houses from the public reservoirs, but the law prohibited them from making the conducting pipe larger than the opening allowed them in the reservoir, within the distance of fifty feet. The Roman legislature must, therefore, have been aware of the fact, that an adjutage with an expanded orifice, would increase the flow of water; but they were ignorant that the same effect would be induced beyond the fifty feet.

Let us apply this law to the circulation. In the first place, at the origin of the pulmonary artery and aorta, there is a manifest narrowness, formed by the ring at the base of the semilunar valves (see Fig. 204); and this might be conceived unfavourable to the flow of the blood along those vessels during the systole of the ventricles; but from the law, which has been laid down, the narrowness would occupy the natural situation of the vena contracta, and, therefore, little or no effect would be induced. The discharge would be the same as if no such narrowness existed. We have seen, again, that the vena cava becomes of larger calibre as it approaches the right auricle, and finally terminates in that cavity by an expanded aperture. This may have a similar effect with the expanded tube C D, Fig. 230, which doubles the expenditure.<sup>b</sup>

In making these conjectures,—some of which have been adduced by Sir Charles Bell,—it is proper to observe, that, in the opinion of some natural philosophers, the effect of the adjutage is entirely due to atmospheric pressure, and that no such acceleration occurs, provided the experiment be repeated *in vacuo*. Sir Charles Bell<sup>c</sup> conceives, that “the weight of the descending column in the reservoir being the force, and this operating as a *vis à tergo*, it is like the water propelled from the *jet d'eau*, and the gradual expansion of the tube permits the stream from behind to force itself between the filaments, and disperses them, without producing that pressure on the sides of the tube, which must take place, where it is of uniform calibre.” It is on this latter view only, that these singular hydrostatic facts can be applied to the doctrine of the circulation.

In addition to the movements, impressed on the blood by the parietes of the cavities in which it moves, it has been considered by many physiologists,—as by Harvey, Glisson, Bohn, Albinus, Rosa, Tiedemann, G. R. Treviranus,<sup>d</sup> Rogerson,<sup>e</sup> Alison,<sup>f</sup> and others,<sup>g</sup>—to

<sup>a</sup> Lat. Oudendorp, Lugd. Bat. 1731.

<sup>b</sup> Venturi, Sur la Communication Latérale du Mouvement dans les Fluides, Paris, 1798; and Pouillet, Elémens de Physiologie, i. 205, Paris, 1832.

<sup>c</sup> Animal Mechanics, p. 40, in Library of Useful Knowledge, Lond. 1829.

<sup>d</sup> Tiedemann, Traité Complet de Physiologie de l'Homme, traduit par Jourdan, i. 348, Paris, 1831.

<sup>e</sup> A Treatise on Inflammation, &c., Lond. 1832.

<sup>f</sup> Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal for Jan. 1836. Also, Prof. R. J. Graves, in Lond. Med. Gazette, June 30, 1836, p. 561.

<sup>g</sup> Dr. S. Smith's Philosophy of Health, p. 398, Lond. 1835; Messrs. Emmerson and Reader, in Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, April, 1836; and Dr. Horace Green, New York Journal of Medicine, May, 1844.

possess a power of automatic or self-motion. Broussais<sup>a</sup> asserts, that he has seen experiments,—originally performed by P. A. Fabre, which showed, that the blood, in the capillary system, frequently moves in an opposite direction to that given it by the heart,—repeated by M. Sarlandière on the mesentery of the frog. In these, the blood was seen to rush for some moments towards the point irritated, and, when a congestion had taken place there, they remarked, that the globules took a different direction, and traversed vessels which conveyed them in an opposite course, and, a few seconds afterwards, these were again observed to return with equal rapidity to the point from which they had been repelled. Tiedemann<sup>b</sup> has collected the testimonies of various individuals on this point. Haller,<sup>c</sup> Spallanzani,<sup>d</sup> Wilson Philip,<sup>e</sup> G. R. Treviranus,<sup>f</sup> and others, have remarked, by the aid of the microscope, that the blood continued to move in the vessels of different animals, but chiefly of frogs, for some time after the great vessels had been tied, or the heart itself removed;—a fact which Tiedemann, also, often witnessed. C. F. Wolff,<sup>g</sup> Rolando,<sup>h</sup> Döllinger and Pander,<sup>i</sup> Prévost and Dumas,<sup>j</sup> Von Baer,<sup>k</sup> and others, saw globules of blood in motion in the incubated egg, before the formation of either vessels or heart; and Hunter, Gruithuisen, and Kaltenbrunner observed—in the midst of the cellular tissue of inflamed parts, in tissues undergoing regeneration, and during the cicatrization of wounds,—bloody points placed successively in contact with each other, forming small currents, which represented new vessels, and united to those already existing. The fact, indeed, that the embryo forms its own vessels, and that blood in motion can be detected before vessels are *in esse*, is a sufficient proof,—were there no other,—that the globules of the blood possess the faculty of motion,<sup>l</sup> either in themselves, or by virtue of an attraction exerted upon them by the solid parietes in which they move. Müller<sup>m</sup> thinks the idea of spontaneous motion in a fluid, independently of attraction or repulsion from the sides of another object, is inconceivable; and as Tiedemann<sup>n</sup> has remarked, if we admit this faculty in animals provided with a heart, the progression of the blood must be mainly

<sup>a</sup> *Traité de Physiologie*, &c., translated by Drs. Bell and La Roche, 3d edit. p. 374, Philad. 1832.

<sup>b</sup> *Op. citat.*

<sup>c</sup> *Oper. Minor.* i. 115, Sect. 8.

<sup>d</sup> *Exper. on the Circulation*, &c., in Eng. by R. Hall, Lond. 1801.

<sup>e</sup> *Philos. Transact.* 1815; and *Medico-chirurg. Trans.* vol. xii.

<sup>f</sup> *Vermischte Schriften*, i. 102.

<sup>g</sup> *Theoria Generationis*, Hal. 1759.

<sup>h</sup> *Dizionario Periodico di Medicina*, Torino, 1822–1823.

<sup>i</sup> *Dissert. sist. Hist. Metamorphoses*, quam Ovum Incubatum prioribus quinque Diebus subit, Wirceb. 1817.

<sup>j</sup> *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, tom. xii. p. 415, Dec. 1827.

<sup>k</sup> *Ueber die Entwicklungsgeschichte der Thiere*, u. s. w., Th. i. Königsberg, 1828. See, also, Dr. Allen Thomson, on the Formation of New Blood-vessels, Edinb. 1832; and art. Circulation, in *Cyclopedia of Anat. and Physiology*, p. 7, Lond. 1836; Alison's *Outlines of Physiology*, 2d edit., Supplement, Lond. 1836; and Purkinje, in art. *Circulatio Sanguinis*, *Encycl. Wörterb.* u. s. w., B. vii. s. 676, Berl. 1831.

<sup>l</sup> Mr. Ansell, *Lectures on the Physiology and Pathology of the Blood*, &c., in *Lond. Lancet*, Oct. 26, 1839, p. 147.

<sup>m</sup> *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 224, Lond. 1838. See, also, Magendie on the Blood, Amer. edit. in *Bell's Select Medical Library*, p. 150, Philad. 1839.

<sup>n</sup> *Op. cit.* p. 349.

owing to that viscus; for, after the heart ceases to act, the circulation is soon arrested. The blood, too, only remains fluid, and possesses the faculty of motion, whilst it is in connexion with the living body. When taken from the vessel in which it circulates, it soon coagulates, and loses its motive power. This motion has, by some,—and, according to Brandt,<sup>a</sup> not without grounds,—been presumed to be owing to electro-chemical agency.

Burdach<sup>b</sup> has properly observed, that the old but perfectly correct saying, “*ubi stimulus, ibi affluxus*,” means nothing more than that where the vital activity of an organ is augmented, more blood will be drawn to it; whence it naturally follows, that the progression of blood in the capillaries must be, in some measure, dependent on the activity of the vital manifestations in the tissue.<sup>c</sup> It has been already shown, that if the capillary action be excited by stimulants, a greater flow of blood takes place into that system of vessels; and, as the functions of nutrition and secretion are accomplished by that system, it is obvious, that any increase in the activity of these functions must attract a larger afflux of fluids, and, in this manner, modify the circulation independently of the heart and larger vessels. But this, again, can have but a subordinate influence on the general circulation.

Lastly, Raspail<sup>d</sup> resolves the whole of the circulation, as he does every other function, into a double action of *aspiration* and *expiration* by the tissues concerned. As the blood is the bearer of life to every part of the organism, and of nourishment and reparation to the organs,—to prevent its destination being annulled, a part of the fluid, he says, must be absorbed by the surfaces, which it bathes: these surfaces must attract nutritive juices from the blood, and they must return to the blood the refuse of their elaboration,—in other words, they must *aspire* and *expire*. Now, this double function cannot take place without the fluid being set in motion, and this motion must be the more constant and uniform as the double function is inherent in every molecule of the surface of the vessels. In this way he accounts for the mercury, placed in a tube communicating with an artery, being kept at the same height near to, or at a distance from, the heart; because, he says, it is not the action of the heart which supports it, but the action of the parietes of the vessels. Every surface, which aspires, provided it is flexible, must be, in its turn, he conceives, attracted by the substance aspired, and, consequently, by the act of aspiration alone, the motions of systole and diastole of the heart and arteries may be explained. When their inner parietes aspire—or assimilate the fluid—the heart will contract; when, on the contrary, they expire, owing to the mutual repulsion between the heart and the fluid, the former will dilate; and, as the movement of the heart is energetic on account of its size, its movements will add to the velocity of the circulation in the arteries, which will, therefore, besides

<sup>a</sup> Art. Blut, in Encyclopäd. Wörterb. der Medicinisch. Wissenschaft. v. 596, Berlin, 1830.

<sup>b</sup> Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, &c., Band. iv., Leipz. 1832.

<sup>c</sup> C. D. Shultz, Der Lebensprocess im Blute, Berl. 1822.

<sup>d</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 364, Paris, 1833.

their proper actions of aspiration and expiration, present movements isochronous with the pulsations of the heart. "Add to this accessory cause of arterial pulsations, the movements impressed by the aerial aspiration, which takes place in the lungs, and the circulation of the blood will no longer present insurmountable problems."

All this, we need scarcely say, is ingenious, but nothing more.

#### *f. Accelerating and Retarding Forces.*

The above are the chief accelerating causes of the circulation. There are some others, which at times accelerate, and at others retard; and others, again, that must always be regarded as impeding influences. All these are of a physical character, and apply as well to inert hydraulic machines, as to the pipes of the human body.

1. *Friction* always acts as a retarding force. That, which occurs between a solid and the surface on which it moves, can be subjected to calculation, but not so with a fluid, inasmuch as all its particles do not move equally: whilst one part is moving rapidly, another may be stationary, moving slowly, or even in a contrary direction, as is seen in rivers, where the middle of the stream always flows with much greater velocity than the sides. The same thing happens to water flowing through pipes; the water, which is in contact with the sides of the pipe, moves more slowly than that at the centre. This retarding force is much diminished by the polished state of the inner surface of the blood-vessels, as is proved by the circumstance, that if we introduce an inert tube into an artery, the blood will not flow through it for any length of time. Poiseuille<sup>a</sup> infers, from his investigations, that a layer of serum lines the interior of the capillary vessels, which may have some effect in retarding the blood globules in their progress through the intermediate system. Yet the viscosity of the blood, within certain limits, would seem to enable it to pass through the capillary system. Magendie, indeed, pronounces it to be an indispensable condition for its free circulation through the capillaries.<sup>b</sup>

2. *Gravity* may either be an active or retarding force, and is always exerting itself, in both ways, on different sets of vessels. If, for example, the flow of blood to the lower extremity, by the arteries, be aided in the erect attitude by the force of gravity, its return by the veins is retarded by the same cause. Every observer must have noticed, that the pulse of an individual in health beats slower when he is in the recumbent, than in the erect, attitude. This is owing to there being no necessity for the heart to make use of unusual exertions for the purpose of forcing the blood, against gravity, towards the upper part of the body. In therapeutics, the physician finds great advantage from bearing this influence in mind; and, hence, in diseases of the head,—as in inflammation of the brain, in apoplectic tendency, ophthalmia, &c.,—he directs the patient's head to be kept raised; whilst in uterine affections the horizontal posture, or one in which the lower part of the body is raised even higher than the head, is inculcated; and in ulcers or inflammatory diseases of the lower extremities, the leg is recom-

<sup>a</sup> Biblioth. Universelle, Novemb. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> Magendie, *Lectures on the Blood*, edit. cit. p. 102, Philad. 1839.

mended to be kept elevated. Every one, who has had the misfortune to suffer from whitlow, must have experienced the essential difference, as regards the degree of pain, produced by position. If the finger be held down, gravity aids the flow of blood by the arteries, and retards its return by the veins: the consequence is turgescence and painful distension; but if it be held higher than the centre of the circulation, the flow by the arteries is impeded, whilst its return by the veins is accelerated, and hence the marked relief afforded.\*

3. *Curvatures*.—Besides friction, the existence of curvatures has considerable effect on the velocity and quantity of the fluid passing through pipes. A jet will not rise as high from the pipe or adjutage of a reservoir, if there be an angular turn in it, as if the bend were a gradual curve or sweep. The expense of force, produced by such curvatures in arteries, is seen at each contraction of the ventricle,—the tendency in the artery to become straight producing an evident movement, which has been called the *locomotion of the artery*, and has been looked upon, by some, as the principal cause of the pulse. This motion is, of course, more perceptible the nearer it is to the heart and the greater the vessel; hence it is more obvious at the arch of the aorta; and we can now understand why this arch should be so gradual. We have a striking example of the force, used in this effort at straightening the artery, in the case of the popliteal artery, when the legs are crossed, and a curvature is thus produced. The force is sufficient to raise a weight of upwards of fifty pounds at each contraction of the ventricle, notwithstanding it acts at the extremity of so long a lever. This fact is sufficient to exhibit the inaccuracy of the notion of Bichat and Bricheteau,<sup>b</sup> that the curvatures in the arteries can have no effect in retarding the flow of blood. Such could only be the case, Bichat thinks, if the vessels were empty at each systole.

3. *Anastomoses*.—The anastomoses of vessels have, doubtless, also some influence on the course of the blood; but it is impossible to appreciate it. The superficial veins are especially liable to have the circulation impeded by compression in the different postures of the body; but, by means of the numerous anastomoses that exist, if the blood cannot pass by one channel, it is diverted into others. Although, however, a forcible compression may arrest or retard the flow by these vessels, a slight degree of support prevents dilatation of the vein by the force of the blood passing into it, and thus favours its motion. The constant pressure of the skin is hence serviceable to the circulation through the subcutaneous veins; and if, by any means, the pressure is diminished, especially in those parts in which the blood has to make its way contrary to gravity—as in the lower extremities—varices or dilatations of the vessels arise, which are remedied by the mechanical compression of an appropriate bandage.

Attempts have been made to calculate the velocity with which the blood proceeds in its course; and how long it would take for a globe of blood, setting out from the left side of the heart, to attain the

\* Mr. Mosley, in Lond. Medical Gazette, April 15, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Clinique Médicale, p. 145, Paris, 1835; and the author's translation in his American Medical Library, Philad. 1837.

right side. It is clear that the data are, in the first place, totally insufficient for any approximation. We know not the exact quantity of blood contained in the vessels; the quantity sent into the artery at each contraction of the ventricle; the relative velocity of the arterial, venous, and capillary circulations; and if we knew them at any one moment, they are liable to incessant fluctuations, which would preclude any accurate average from being deduced. Were these circumstances insufficient to exhibit the inanity of such researches, the varying estimates of different observers would fully establish it. These assign the time occupied in the circulation from two minutes to fifteen or twenty hours! Moreover, the distance the globules have to traverse must be very various. In the heart, the passage from one side to the other by the coronary vessels is very short, whilst if the blood have to proceed to a remote part of the body, the distance is considerable.

Were we to regard the vascular system as forming a single tube —by knowing the weight of the blood and the quantity which the left ventricle is capable of sending forward at each contraction, we could calculate with facility the period that must elapse before the whole mass is distributed. Thus, if we estimate, with many physiologists, the quantity propelled forward at each contraction of the ventricle to be two ounces; and the whole mass of blood to be 30 pounds, it will require, on an average, about 240 beats of the heart to send it onwards; which can be accomplished in little more than 3 minutes;<sup>a</sup> yet, notwithstanding the absence of the requisite data, a recent writer has gone so far as to affirm the average velocity of the blood in the aorta, to be about eight inches per second; whilst “the velocity in the extreme capillaries is found to be often less than one inch per minute.” A similar estimate was made by Dr. Young;<sup>b</sup> Hales,<sup>c</sup> too, estimated the velocity of the blood leaving the heart at 149·2 feet per minute, and the quantity of blood passing through the organ every hour at twenty times the weight of the blood in the body; but the judicious physiologist knows well, that in all operations, which are partly of a vital character, the results of every kind of calculation must be given with caution and humility. In the larger animals, as the whale, the quantity of the fluid circulating in the aorta must be prodigious. Dr. Hunter, in his account of the dissection of a whale, states that the aorta was a foot in diameter, and that ten or fifteen gallons of blood were probably thrown out of the heart at each stroke; so that this vessel is in the whale actually larger than the main pipe of the old water-works at London Bridge; and the water, rushing through the pipe, it has been conceived, had less impetus and velocity than that gushing from the heart of this leviathan.<sup>d</sup>

But the highest of these estimates, as to the velocity of the circulatory current, is probably far beneath the truth, inasmuch as experi-

<sup>a</sup> For various estimates, see Burdach, *Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, iv. 253, Leipzig, 1832; Dr. Allen Thomson, *Cyclop. of Anatomy and Physiol.* art. Circulation; and Müller's *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 186.

<sup>b</sup> *Med. Literature*. Lond. 1813.

<sup>c</sup> *Statical Essays*, vol. ii. Lond. 1829.

<sup>d</sup> Paley's *Natural Theology*; and *Animal Physiology*, p. 75, *Library of Useful Knowledge*. Lond. 1829.



ments have shown, that substances introduced into the venous circulation may be detected in the remotest parts of the arterial circulation in animals larger even than man in less than thirty seconds. Ten seconds after having injected a solution of nitrate of baryta into the jugular vein of a horse, Mr. Blake<sup>a</sup> drew blood from the carotid of the opposite side: after allowing this to flow for five seconds, he received the blood that flowed during the next five seconds into another vessel; and that which flowed after the twentieth second, by which time the action of the heart had stopped, was received into a third vessel. No trace of baryta could be detected in the blood that flowed between the tenth and fifteenth second; but it was discovered in that which flowed between the fifteenth and twentieth. From the results of these and other experiments, Dr. Carpenter thinks it difficult to resist the conclusion, that some other force than the contractions of the heart must have a share in producing the movement of the blood through the vessels.<sup>b</sup> If, however, we adopt the estimate of the average quantity of blood discharged by the left ventricle at each contraction, as given by Valentin,<sup>c</sup> a part of the difficulty is removed. He gives it at five ounces, so that thirty pounds of blood would require, on an average, 96 contractions of the ventricle, which would be accomplished on an average in about a minute and a third. Mr. Paget says in from  $41\frac{1}{2}$  to  $62\frac{1}{2}$  seconds—the discordance being owing to the varying estimates as to the quantity of blood in the body.

With this velocity of the general circulation, it is not easy to comprehend its slowness of progression in the capillary vessels, which in the frog, according to Valentin,<sup>d</sup> from many careful microscopic examinations, is from 0.938 to 1.4 English inch per minute. In the small veins, he says, it is about  $\frac{1}{2}$ th faster. These velocities, as Mr. Paget<sup>e</sup> remarks, agree nearly with those of Hales, who estimated the velocity at an inch in a minute and a half; and more nearly still with those of Weber, who found it  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch per minute. On examining the circulation in the tongue of the frog, the blood is observed streaming with immense velocity through the larger vessels, whilst in those that admit but a single file of red corpuscles, the motion is as slow as described by those observers.

The velocity of the circulating fluid in the smaller vessels is generally thought to be less than in the larger;<sup>f</sup> and their united calibres to be much greater than that of the trunk with which they communicate.<sup>g</sup> Were this the case, the diminution of velocity would be in accordance with a law of hydrodynamics;—that when a liquid flows through a full pipe, the quantity which traverses the different sections of the pipe, in a given time, must be every where the same; so that where the pipe is wider the velocity diminishes: and, on the contrary, where it is narrower the velocity increases. This would not seem,

<sup>a</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, Oct. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> Human Physiology, § 491. Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen, i. 415, cited by Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1845, p. 261.

<sup>d</sup> Op. cit.

<sup>e</sup> Loc. cit.

<sup>f</sup> Dr. J. R. Graves, in Lond. Med. Gazette for June 30, 1838, p. 559.

<sup>g</sup> Horner, Special Anatomy and Histology, ii. 172. Philad. 1843.

however, to be consistent with the calculations of Dr. T. Young, and Weber, and the experiments of Poiseuille, already referred to, which appear to show, that the pressure exerted on the blood in different parts of the body—as measured by the column of mercury, which the blood in different arteries will sustain—is almost exactly the same,—a view in which Drs. Spengler<sup>a</sup> and Valentin<sup>b</sup> concur.

The cause of error in the common belief,—that the capacity of the arterial tubes increases greatly in proportion to their distance from the heart,—has been explained by Mr. Ferneley.<sup>c</sup> It is true, he observes, that the sum of the diameters of the branches is considerably greater than that of the trunk. Thus a trunk, 7 lines across, may divide into two branches of 5 lines each, or a trunk of 17 into three branches of 10, 10, and  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ; but when their areas are compared, which is the only mode of arriving at their calibres, the correspondence is as close as can be reasonably expected, when the nature of the measurement is taken into account. In the first case, the area of the trunk is represented by the square of 7—that is 49; whilst the area of each branch will be 25, and the sum of the two will be 50. In the second instance, the area of the trunk will be 17 squared, or 289; whilst that of the branches is the sum of 100, 100, and  $90\frac{1}{4}$ , making  $290\frac{1}{4}$ .<sup>d</sup> This will be more strikingly seen from the following table:<sup>e</sup>

Trunks.			Branches.	
	Diameter.	Square of Diameter.	Diameter.	Sum of Squares of Diameter.
I.	9	81	$7.5 + 5$	81.25
II.	7.2	51.84	$6 + 4$	52
III.	3.5	12.25	$3 + 2$	13
IV.	7.0	49	$5 + 5$	50
V.	17	289	$10 + 10 + 9.5$	290.25
VI.	10	100	$7 + 7 + 2$	102
VII.	4.5	20.25	$3.5 + 3$	21.25
VIII.	8	64	$4 + 7$	65

It will be observed, that the sum of the squares of the diameters of the branches is in every case slightly more than the square of the diameter of the trunk. The discrepancy was found to be somewhat greater in subsequent experiments made by Mr. Paget.<sup>f</sup> The following table gives the ratio of the area of each arterial trunk to the joint area of its branches, as observed by him:

	Trunk.	Branches.
Arch of the aorta	1	1.055
Innominate	1	1.147
Common carotid	1	1.013
External do.	1	1.19
Subclavian	1	1.055
Abdominal aorta to the last lumbar arteries	1	1.183
just before dividing	1	.893
Common iliac	1	.982
External iliac	1	1.15

<sup>a</sup> Müller's Archives, 1744, Heft i.

<sup>c</sup> London Medical Gazette, Dec. 7, 1839.

<sup>d</sup> Lond. Med. Gaz., Dec. 7, 1839; and Brit. and For. Med. Review, April, 1849, p. 422.

<sup>e</sup> Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 476. Lond. 1843.

<sup>f</sup> London Medical Gazette, July 8, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Op. cit. p. 456.

Analogous experiments by actual admeasurement made by Mr. Erskine Hazard,<sup>a</sup> of Philadelphia, lead to the same conclusion.

It would appear, that where the aorta divides into the common iliacs, or at the division next lower down, the stream is always contracted; an effect, which, Mr. Paget suggests, must be to accelerate the circulation not only in the iliacs themselves, but in the arteries given off from the trunk above them,—as the mesenteric and the renal.

From what has been said regarding the curvatures and angles of vessels, it will be understood, that the blood must proceed to different organs with different velocities. The renal artery is extremely short, straight, and large, and must consequently transmit the blood very differently to the kidney, from what the tortuous carotid does to the brain; or the spermatic artery to the testicle. A different impulse must, consequently, be given to the corresponding organs by these different vessels. A great portion, however, of the impulse of the heart must fail to reach the kidney, short as the renal artery is, owing to its passing off from the aorta at a right angle; and, hence, the impulse of the blood on the kidney may not be as great as might be imagined at first sight.

The tortuosity of the carotid arteries is such as to greatly destroy the impetus of the blood; so that but trifling hemorrhage takes place when the brain is sliced away on a living animal, although it is presumed, that one-eighth of the whole quantity of blood is sent to the encephalon. Dr. Rush supposed, that the use of the thyroid gland is to break the afflux of blood to the brain; for which its situation between the heart and the head appeared to him to adapt it; and he adduced, as farther arguments,—*first*, the number of arteries which it receives, although effecting no secretion; *secondly*, the effect on the brain, which he conceived to be caused by diseases, and by extirpation, of the thyroid; the operation having actually occasioned, in his opinion, in one case, inflammation of the brain, rapidly terminating fatally; and, *thirdly*, the fact that goitre is often accompanied by idiotism. The opinion, however, is so entirely conjectural, and some of the *facts*, on which it rests, so questionable, that it does not demand serious examination.

This leads us to remark, that the thyroid gland, as well as other organs, with whose precise functions we are totally unacquainted—as the thymus, spleen, and supra-renal capsules,—have been conceived to serve as diverticula or temporary reservoirs to the blood, when, owing to particular circumstances, that fluid cannot circulate properly in other parts. Lieutaud having observed, that the spleen is always larger when the stomach is empty than when full, considered that the blood, when digestion is not going on, reflows into the spleen, and that thus this organ becomes a diverticulum to the stomach. The opinion has been indulged by many, with more or less modification. Dr. Rush's view was yet more comprehensive. He regarded the spleen as a diverticulum, not simply to the stomach, but to the whole system, when the circulation is violently excited, as in passion,

<sup>a</sup> Horner, *Special Anatomy and Histology*, ii. 172. Philad. 1843.

or in violent muscular efforts, at which times there is danger of sanguineous congestion in different organs; and in support of this view, he invoked the spongy nature of the spleen; the frequency of its distension; the large quantity of blood distributed to it; its vicinity to the centre of the circulation; and the sensation referred to it, in running, laughing, &c. Broussais<sup>a</sup> has still farther extended the notion of diverticula. He affirms, that they always exist in the vicinity of organs, whose functions are manifestly intermittent. In the fœtus, the blood does not circulate through the lungs as when respiration has been established: diverticula, he, therefore, considers to be necessary: these are the thymus and thyroid glands. The kidneys do not act in utero; hence the use of the supra-renal capsules as diverticula. At birth, these organs are either wholly obliterated, if the organs to which they previously acted as diverticula have continuous functions; or they are only partly obliterated, if the functions be intermittent. Thus, the spleen continues as a diverticulum to the stomach, because its functions are intermittent through life; and the thymus disappears, when respiration is established: the liver and the portal system he regards as a reservoir, inservient to the reception of the blood in cases of impediment to the circulation in different parts of the body.

These notions are entirely hypothetical. We shall see, hereafter, that our ignorance of the offices of the spleen, thymus, &c., is extreme; and we have already shown, that much more probable uses can be assigned to the portal system. The insufficiency of Broussais's doctrine of diverticula is strikingly evidenced by the fact, that whilst the thymus gland disappears gradually in the progress of age, the thyroid remains, as well as the supra-renal capsules.<sup>b</sup>

The *erectile tissues* offer a variety in the circulation, which requires some comment. Examples of these occur in the corpora cavernosa of the penis and clitoris; and in the nipple. They appear, according to Gerber,<sup>c</sup> to consist of a plexus or rete of varicose veins enclosed in a fibrous envelope, with relatively minute interspaces, which are occupied and traversed in all directions by arteries, nerves, contractile fibres, and by elastic, fibrous and cellular tissue. Of the particular arrangement of vessels in the corpora cavernosa, mention will be made hereafter: the mode of termination of the arteries in the erectile tissues has not been sufficiently studied,<sup>b</sup> nor are views uniform in regard to their mode of action; some being of opinion, that they afford examples of vital expansibility; but as before remarked (page 152), the excitation is first induced in the nerves of the part—generally through the influence of the brain—and the turgescence of vessels is a consequence.

The arrangement of the portal system of the liver is also peculiar, and has been given already (p. 94).

#### g. *The Pulse.*

We have had occasion, more than once, to refer to the subject of

<sup>a</sup> Commentaries des Propositions de Pathologie, &c., Paris, 1829; or, translation, p. 214, Philad. 1832.

<sup>b</sup> Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, tom. iii. 328, 2de édit. Paris, 1828.

<sup>c</sup> Elements of General Anatomy, by Gulliver, p. 298, Lond. 1842.

<sup>d</sup> Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 197, Paris, 1843.

the pulse, or to the beat felt by the finger when applied over any of the larger arteries. Opinions have varied essentially regarding its cause. Whilst most physiologists have believed it to be owing to distension of the arteries, caused by each contraction of the left ventricle, some have admitted a systole and diastole of the vessel itself; others, as Bichat and Weitbrecht,<sup>a</sup> have thought that it is owing to the locomotion of the artery; others, that the impulse of the heart's contraction is transmitted through the fluid blood, as through a solid body; and others, as Dr. Young<sup>b</sup> and Dr. Parry,<sup>c</sup> that it is owing to the sudden rush forward of the blood in the artery without distension.

Bichat was one of the first, who was disposed to doubt, whether the dilatation of the artery, which was almost universally admitted, really existed; or if it did, whether it were sufficient to explain the phenomenon; and, since his time, numerous experiments have been made by Dr. Parry, the result of which satisfied him, that not the smallest dilatation can be detected in the larger arteries, when they are laid bare during life; nor does he believe, that there is such a degree of locomotion of the vessel as can account for the effect produced upon the finger. He ascribes the pulse to "impulse of distension from the systole of the left ventricle, given by the blood, as it passes through any part of an artery contracted within its natural diameter." Dr. Bostock<sup>d</sup> appears to coincide with Dr. Parry, if we understand him rightly, or at all. "According to this (Dr. Parry's) doctrine," he remarks, "we must regard the artery as an elastic and distensible tube, which is at all times filled, although with the contained fluid not in an equally condensed state, and that the effect produced upon the finger depends upon the amount of this condensation, or upon the pressure which it exercises upon the vessel, as determined by the degree in which it is capable of being compressed. Where there is no resistance to the flow of the blood along the arteries, there is no variation, it is conceived, in their diameter, and it is, only the pressure of the finger or some other substance against the side of an artery that produces its pulse."<sup>e</sup>

Most of the theories of the pulse take the contractility of the artery too little into account. In pathology, where we have an opportunity of observing the pulse in various phases, we meet with sensations communicated to the finger, which it is difficult to explain upon any theory, except that of the compound action of heart and arteries. The impulse is obviously that of the heart, and although the fact of distension escaped the observation of Bichat, Parry, Weitbrecht, Lamure, Döllinger, Rudolphi,<sup>f</sup> Jäger,<sup>g</sup> and others, we ought not to conclude, that it does not occur. It is, indeed, difficult for us to

<sup>a</sup> Comment. Acad. Imper. Scient. Petropol. ad An. 1734 and 1735, Petrop. 1740.

<sup>b</sup> Croonian Lectures, in Philos. Transact. for 1809, Part i.

<sup>c</sup> An Experimental Inquiry into the Nature, Causes, and Varieties of the Arterial Pulse, by Caleb Hillier Parry, London, 1816; also, Additional Experiments on the Arteries of Warm-blooded Animals, &c., by Charles Henry Parry, M.D., &c., London, 1819; Dr. Prichard, in Transact. of the Provincial Med. and Surg. Association, iv. 16, Lond. 1836.

<sup>d</sup> Physiology, 3d edit. p. 246, Lond. 1836.

<sup>e</sup> Good's Study of Medicine, Physiological Proem to the class Hæmatica.

<sup>f</sup> Grundriss der Physiologie, &c., Berlin, 1821.

<sup>g</sup> Tractatus Anatomico-physiologicus de Arteriarum Pulsu. Vircebr., 1830.

believe, that such an impulse can be communicated to a fluid filling an elastic vessel without pulsatory distension supervening. In opposition, too, to the negative observations of Bichat and Parry, we have the positive averment of Dr. Hastings, and of Poiseuille,<sup>a</sup> Oesterreicher, Ségalas, and Wedemeyer, that the alternate contraction and dilatation of the larger arteries was clearly seen.<sup>b</sup>

The pulsations of the different arteries are pretty nearly synchronous with that of the left ventricle. Those of the vessels near the heart may be regarded as almost wholly so; but an appreciable interval exists in the pulsations of the more remote vessels.<sup>c</sup>

We have remarked, that the arterial system is manifestly more or less affected by the nerves distributed to it; that it may be stimulated by irritants, applied to the great nervous centres, or to the nerves passing to it; and this is, doubtless, the cause of many of the modifications of arterial tension, that we notice in disease. No inflammation can affect a part of the system, for any length of time, without both heart and arteries participating, and affording unequivocal signs of such inflammation. This, however, is a subject that belongs more especially to pathology.

The ordinary number of pulsations, per minute, in the healthy adult male, is from seventy to seventy-five; but this varies greatly according to temperament, habit of life, position,—whether lying, sitting, or standing,<sup>d</sup> &c. Dr. Guy,<sup>e</sup> from numerous observations, found the pulse, in healthy males, of the mean age of 27 years, in a state of rest, 79 when standing; 70, sitting, and 67, lying; the difference between standing and sitting being 9 beats; between sitting and lying, 3 beats; and between standing and lying, 12 beats. When all exceptions to the general rule were excluded, the numbers were;—standing, 81; sitting, 71; and lying, 66;—the difference between standing and sitting being 10 beats; between sitting and lying, 5 beats; and between standing and lying, 15 beats. The effect produced upon the pulse by change of posture, Dr. Guy ascribes to muscular contraction, whether employed to change the position of the body, or to maintain it in the same position. In children, the difference between the pulse in the sitting and lying position is often very marked. In a boy, six years of age, now before the author, it amounts to fifteen beats; and Dr. Evanson<sup>f</sup> states, that he has often found the pulse—which at night (during sleep) was 80, full and steady—up to 100 or even 120 during the day, small and hurried,—and this in children six or seven years of age and in perfect health.

<sup>a</sup> Repertoire générale d'Anatomie, &c., par Breschet, 1839, tom. vi. and vii. and Magendie's Journal de Physiol., viii. and ix.

<sup>b</sup> Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, tom. iv. Leipz., 1832. For a mode of estimating the arterial distension, see Poiseuille, in Magendie's Journal de Physiologie, ix. 44, and Jules Herison's description of an instrument—*Sphygmometer*—which makes the action of the arteries apparent to the eye.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Allen Thomson, art. Circulation, Cyclopaedia of Anatomy and Physiology, P. vii. p. 664, Lond., 1836; and Müller's Handbuch, u. s. w., Bely's translation, p. 900.

<sup>d</sup> Dr. M'Donnel, in Dublin Journal of Med. and Chemical Science, Sept., 1835.

<sup>e</sup> Guy's Hospital Reports, No. vi. April, 1838, p. 92. See, also, Dr. John M. B. Harden, Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, April, 1843, p. 340.

<sup>f</sup> Practical Treatise on the Management and Diseases of Children, by Messrs. Evanson and Maunsell: Amer. edit., by Dr. Condie, p. 19, Philad., 1843.

In some individuals in health, the number of beats is singularly few. The pulse of a person, known to the author, was on the average thirty-six per minute; and Lizzari<sup>a</sup> affirms, that he knew a person in whom it was not more than ten. It is not improbable, however, that in these cases, obscure beats may have taken place intermediately, and yet not have been detected. In a case of pericarditis, in which the author felt great interest, the pulse exhibited a decided intermission every few beats, yet the heart beat its due number of times; the intermission of the pulse at the wrist consisting in the loss of one of the beats of the heart. It was not improbable but that in this case the contractility of the aorta was unusually developed by the inflammatory condition of the heart; and that the flow of blood from the ventricle was thus occasionally diminished or entirely impeded. The quickest pulse, which Dr. Elliottson<sup>b</sup> ever felt, was 208, counted easily, he says, at the heart, though not at the wrist.

The pulse of the adult female is usually from ten to fourteen beats in a minute quicker than that of the male.<sup>c</sup> In infancy, it is generally irregular, intermitting, and always rapid, and it gradually becomes slower in the progress of age. It is, of course, impossible to arrive at any accurate estimate of its comparative frequency at different periods of life, but the average of the following numbers, on the authority of Heberden,<sup>d</sup> Sömmering,<sup>e</sup> and Müller,<sup>f</sup> may, on the whole, be regarded as approximations.

Ages.	Number of beats per minute, according to		
	Heberden.	Sömmering.	Müller.
In the embryo, . . . . .	—	—	150
At birth, . . . . .	130 to 140	Do.	Do.
One month, . . . . .	120	—	—
One year, . . . . .	120 to 108	120	115 to 130
Two years, . . . . .	108 to 90	110	100 to 115
Three years, . . . . .	90 to 80	90	90 to 100
Seven years, . . . . .	72	—	85 to 90
Twelve years, . . . . .	70	—	—
Puberty, . . . . .	—	80	80 to 85
Adult, . . . . .	—	70	70 to 75
Old age, . . . . .	—	60	50 to 65

Researches by MM. Hourmann and Dechambre,<sup>g</sup> do not, however, accord with these estimates in respect to the smaller number of pulsations in the aged. MM. Lauret and Mitivié had suspected an error

<sup>a</sup> Raccolta D'Opusculi Scientifici, p. 265; and Good's Study of Medicine, Physiological Proem to class iii. Hæmatica. See Cases of Slowness of Pulse, by Mr. Mayo, Lond. Med. Gaz., May 5, 1838, p. 232.

<sup>b</sup> Human Physiology, p. 215, London, 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Guy, in Guy's Hospital Reports, iii. 112.

<sup>d</sup> Med. Transact. ii. 21. Also, Blumenbach's Elements of Physiology, by Elliottson, p. 89, 4th edit., London, 1828.

<sup>e</sup> See, also, Quetelet sur l'Homme, &c., ii. 80, Paris, 1835; Dr. Knox, in Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., April, 1837; Dr. Gorham on the Pulse of Infants, in Lond. Med. Gaz., Nov. 25, 1837; Valleix, Clinique des Maladies des Enfants Nouveau-nés, Paris, 1838; and Dr. J. M. B. Harden, op. cit.

<sup>f</sup> Handbuch der Physiologie, Baly's translation, p. 171, London, 1838.

<sup>g</sup> Archiv. Général de Méd. pour 1835.

in this matter from an examination of 71 of the aged inmates of the Bicêtre and La Salpêtrière. MM. Hourmann and Dechambre examined 255 women between the ages of 60 and 96, and found the average number of the pulse to be 82.29. M. Rochoux,<sup>a</sup> however, still believes—from the results of his own observations as well as those of others—that, as a general rule, the frequency of the pulse diminishes in the progress of age. Dr. Gorham assigns 130 as the mean number of the pulse from five months to two years old; and 107.63 from two to four years of age, whence the number continues almost the same up to the tenth year. His estimates, however, are much higher than those of M. Valleix.<sup>b</sup>

M. Trousseau,<sup>c</sup> from repeated observations, infers that but little stress ought to be laid on the pulse in the diagnosis of disease in infants. He found, that during the first two weeks, it may vary from 78 to 150; during the second fortnight, from 120 to 164; at from one to two months, from 96 to 132; two to six months, 100 to 162; six to twelve months, 100 to 160; and from twelve to twenty-one months, 96 to 140. From the observations of MM. Billard, Valleix, and others, it would seem that the pulse of the fœtus at the moment it is expelled from the uterus often falls to 83 in the minute, and that, in some minutes afterwards, it rises to 160. In the course of the first day, it falls again to 127, and continues to diminish during the first ten days, the average being then from 87 to 90. These are, however, only the averages: the variations are very great. The sex appeared to have some influence. In infants, from eight days to six months old, the average number of pulsations for boys was 131; for girls, 134; from six to twenty-one months, the average for boys was 113; for girls, 126. The state of sleeping or waking had a greater influence. In infants from fifteen days to six months old, the average of the pulse was 140 during waking, 121 during sleep. When the child cried or struggled, he has known it rise from 112 to 160 and 180. On the whole, M. Trousseau concludes, that the pulse of children at the breast varies from 100 to 150. After the first two months, it is a little more frequent in females than in males; and it is about 20 higher in the waking than in the sleeping state.

The pulse—strange to say—may be wholly absent, without the health seeming to be interfered with. A case of this kind is referred to by Prof. S. Jackson,<sup>d</sup> as having occurred in the mother of a physician of Philadelphia. The pulse disappeared during an attack of acute rheumatism, and could never again be observed during her life. Yet she was active in body and mind, and possessed unusual health. In no part of the body could a pulse be detected. Dr. Jackson attended her during a part of her last illness—inflammation of the

<sup>a</sup> Art. Pulse, in *Dict. de Méd.*, 2d edit., xxv. 619, Paris, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> *Mémoires de la Société Médicale d'Observation de Paris*, tom. ii., Paris, 1844.

<sup>c</sup> *Journ. des Connaiss. Méd. Chir.*, Juillet and Août, 1841; and *Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences*, Oct. 1841, p. 458, and Jan. 1842, p. 199.

<sup>d</sup> *The Principles of Medicine, founded on the Structure and Functions of the Animal Organism*, p. 492, Philad. 1832. See, also, a case of complete disappearance of the beating of the heart, in *Gazette Médicale*, Nov. 21, 1836; and analogous cases in Parry on the Pulse, Bath, 1816; in *Medico-Chirurg. Review*, xix. 285, and April, 1836.



intestines; no pulse existed. She died whilst he was absent from the city, and no examination was made to elucidate the cause of this remarkable phenomenon.

Between the number of pulsations and respirations there would not appear to be any fixed relation. In many individuals the ratio in health is 4 to 1,<sup>a</sup> but in disease it varies greatly. Dr. Elliotson<sup>b</sup> alludes to a case of nervous disease in a female, at the time in no danger, whose respiration was 106 and pulse 104.

Dr. Knox has made some observations on the pulsations of the heart and on its diurnal revolution and excitability,<sup>c</sup> from which he infers: 1. The velocity of the heart's action is in a direct ratio with the age of the individual,—being quickest in young persons, slowest in the aged. There may be exceptions to this, but they do not affect the general law. 2. There are no data to determine the question of an average pulse for all ages. 3. There is a morning acceleration and an evening retardation in the number of the pulsations of the heart, independently of any stimulation by food, &c. 4. The excitability of the heart undergoes a daily revolution; that is, food and exercise affect the heart's action most in the morning and during the forenoon, less in the afternoon, and least of all in the evening. Hence it might be inferred that the pernicious use of spirituous liquors must be greatly aggravated in those who drink before dinner. 5. Sleep does not farther affect the heart's action than by a cessation of all voluntary motion, and by a recumbent position. 6. In weak persons, muscular action excites the action of the heart more powerfully than in strong and healthy individuals; but this does not apply to other stimulants,—to wine, for example, or to spirituous liquors. 7. The effects of the position of the body, in increasing or diminishing the number of pulsations, is solely attributable to the muscular exertion required to maintain the body in the sitting or erect posture; the debility may be measured by altering the position of the person from a recumbent to a sitting or the erect position. 8. The most powerful stimulant to the heart's action is muscular exertion. The febrile pulse never equals this.<sup>d</sup>

#### *h. Uses of the Circulation.*

The chief uses of the circulation are,—to transmit to the lungs the products of absorption, in order that they may be converted into arterial blood; and to convey to the different organs this arterial blood, which is not only necessary for their vitality, but is the fluid by which the different processes of nutrition, calorification, and secretion are effected. These functions will engage us next. We may remark, in conclusion, that the agency of the blood, as the cause of health or insalubrity, has had greater importance assigned to it than it merits; and that although the blood may be the medium, by which the source

<sup>a</sup> Quetelet, *op. citat.*, p. 87.

<sup>b</sup> *Human Physiology*, p. 215, Lond. 1835. See, also, Dr. Ch. Hooker, of New Haven, Conn., in *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, for May 16, 23, &c., 1838.

<sup>c</sup> *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, April, 1837. See, also, Dr. Stratton, in *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ.* for Jan. 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Dr. Guy, *op. citat.*; and in *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal*, p. 90, Jan. 1841.

of disease is conveyed to other organs, we cannot look to it as the seat of those taints that are commonly referred to it. "Upon the whole," says Dr. Good,\* "we cannot but regard the blood as, in many respects, the most important fluid of the animal machine; from it all the solids are derived and nourished, and all the other fluids are secreted; and it is hence the basis or common pabulum of every part. And as it is the source of general health, so is it also of general disease. In inflammation, it takes a considerable share, and evinces a peculiar appearance. The miasms of fevers and exanthems are harmless to every part of the system, and only become mischievous when they reach the blood; and emetic tartar, when introduced into the jugular vein, will vomit in one or two minutes, although it might require perhaps half an hour if thrown into the stomach, and in fact it does not vomit till it has reached the circulation. And the same is true of opium, jalap, and most of the poisons, animal, mineral, and vegetable. If imperfectly elaborated, or with a disproportion of some of its constituent principles to the rest, the whole system partakes of the evil, and a dysthesis or morbid habit is the certain consequence; whence tabes, atrophy, scurvy, and various species of gangrene. And if it becomes once impregnated with a peculiar taint, it is wonderful to remark the tenacity with which it retains it, though often in a state of dormancy and inactivity for years, or even entire generations. For as every germ and fibre of every other part is formed and regenerated from the blood, there is no other part of the system that we can so well look to as the seat of such taints, or the predisposing cause of the disorders I am now alluding to; often corporeal, as gout, struma, phthisis: sometimes mental, as madness; and occasionally both, as cretinism."

This picture is largely overdrawn. Setting aside the pathological allusions, which are erroneous in assigning to the blood what properly belongs to the system of nutrition, how can we suppose a taint to continue for years, or even entire generations, in a fluid which is perpetually undergoing renovation, and, at any distinct interval, cannot be presumed to have one of its quondam particles remaining? Were all hereditary diseases derived from the mother, we could better comprehend this doctrine of taints; inasmuch as, during the whole of foetal existence, she transmits the pabulum for the support of her offspring: the child is, however, equally liable to receive the taint from the father, who supplies no pabulum, but merely a secretion from the blood at a fecundating copulation, and from that moment cannot exert any influence upon the character of his progeny. The impulse to this or that organization or conformation must be given from the moment of union of the particles, furnished by each parent at a fecundating intercourse; and it is probable, that no subsequent influence is exerted even by the mother, except through the pabulum she furnishes. The embryo accomplishes its own construction, as independently of the parents as the chick *in ovo*.

#### i. *Transfusion and Infusion.*

The operation of Transfusion,—as well as of Infusion of medicinal

\* Loc. citat.

agents,—was adduced in an early part of this chapter, to prove the course of the circulation to be by the arteries into the veins. Both these operations were suggested by the discovery of Harvey. The former, more especially, was looked upon as a means of curing all diseases, and of renovating the aged *ad libitum*. The cause of every disease and decay was presumed to reside in the blood, and consequently, all that was conceived to be necessary was to remove the faulty fluid, and to substitute pure blood obtained from a healthy animal in its place.

As a therapeutical agent, the history of this operation does not belong to physiology. The detail of the fluctuation of opinions regarding it, and its total disuse, are given at some length in the Histories of Medicine, to which we must refer the reader.<sup>a</sup> There are some interesting physiological facts, however, that cannot be passed over. MM. Prévost and Dumas found that the vivifying power of the blood does not reside so much in the serum as in the red particles. An animal bled to syncope was not revived by the injection of water or of pure serum at a proper temperature; but if blood of one of the same species was used, the animal seemed to acquire fresh life, at every stroke of the piston, and was at length restored.

Transfusion has been revived by Dr. Blundell,<sup>b</sup> of London, and by MM. Prévost and Dumas;<sup>c</sup> the first of whom has employed it with safety, and he thinks with happy effects, in extensive uterine hemorrhage. All these gentlemen remark, that it can only be adopted with perfect safety in animals of like kinds, or in those the globules of whose blood are of similar configuration. MM. Prévost and Dumas, Dieffenbach,<sup>d</sup> and Bischoff,<sup>e</sup> all agree as to the deadly influence of the blood of the mammalia when injected into the veins of birds. This influence, according to Müller, is in some way connected with the fibrin of the blood. Experiments have certainly shown, that blood deprived of fibrin acts most injuriously when injected into the vessels.<sup>f</sup>

The introduction of the practice of *infusing* medicinal agents into the blood was coeval with that of transfusion. Both, indeed, are affirmed to have been commenced in 1657, at the suggestion of Sir Christopher Wren.<sup>g</sup> It is a singular fact, that in cases of infusion, medicinal substances are found to exert their specific actions upon certain parts of the body, precisely in the same manner as if they had been received into the stomach. Tartar emetic, for example, vomits, and castor oil purges, not only as certainly, but with much

<sup>a</sup> Sprengel, *Hist. de Méd. par Jourdan*, iv. 120, Paris, 1815; Dr. J. P. Kay, *art. Transfusion*, *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, Amer. edit. by the author, iv. 468, Philad. 1845; E. Grafe, *art. Infusion und Transfusion*, *Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft*, xviii. s. 434, Berlin, 1838.

<sup>b</sup> *Medico-chirurgical Transactions*, ix. 56; and x. 296; and Appendix to Ashwell's *Practical Treatise on Parturition*, London, 1828.

<sup>c</sup> *Bibliothèque Universelle*, xvii. 215.

<sup>d</sup> *Die Transfusion des Blutes*, Berlin, 1828.

<sup>e</sup> *Möller's Archiv*, 1835; cited in Baly's translation of J. Müller's *Handbuch*, u. s. w.

<sup>f</sup> Magendie on the Blood, in *Lond. Lancet*, and Bell's *Select Medical Library* edit. p. 154, Philad. 1839. See, also, on the different effects of transfusion of arterial and venous blood on animals, Bischoff, in *Müller's Archiv*, Heft iv. 1838, and *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* April, 1839, p. 548.

<sup>g</sup> Sprengel, *op. citat.* iv. 121.

greater speed; for, whilst the former, as before remarked, requires to be in the stomach for fifteen or twenty minutes, before vomiting is excited, it produces its effect in one or two minutes, when thrown into the veins. Dr. E. Hale, Junr., of Boston, has published an interesting pamphlet on this subject.\* In it he traces the history of the operation, and details several interesting experiments upon animals; and one upon himself, which consisted in the introduction of a quantity of castor oil into the veins.

In this experiment, he did not experience much inconvenience immediately after the injection; but very speedily he felt an oily taste in the mouth, which continued for a length of time, and the medicine acted powerfully as a cathartic.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in the introduction of the oil, to which circumstance Magendie<sup>b</sup> ascribes Dr. Hale's safety; for it is found, by experiments on animals, that viscid fluids, such as oil, are unable to pass through the pulmonary capillaries, in consequence of which the circulation is arrested, and death follows. Such also appears to have been the result of the experiments of Dr. Hale with powdered substances.

The injection of medicines into the veins has been largely practised at the Veterinary School of Copenhagen, and with complete success,—the action of the medicine being incomparably more speedy, and the dose required much less. It is rarely employed by the physician, except in his experiments on animals; but it is obvious that it might be had recourse to, with happy effects, where narcotic and other poisons have been taken, and where the mechanical means for their removal are not at hand.<sup>c</sup>

### 3. CIRCULATORY APPARATUS IN ANIMALS.

In concluding this subject, a brief allusion to the circulatory apparatus of other parts of the animal kingdom may be interesting and instructive.

In the *mammalia* in general, the inner structure of the heart is the same as in man, but its situation differs materially; and, in some of them, as in the stag and pig, two small flat bones, called *bones of the heart*, exist, where the aorta arises from the left ventricle. In the amphibious *mammalia* and the *cetacea*, it has been supposed that the foramen ovale, situate in the septum between the auricles, is open as in the human foetus, to allow those animals to pass a considerable time under water without breathing; but the observations of Blumenbach, Cuvier, and others seem to show, that it is almost always closed. Sir Everard Home found it open in the sea otter, in two instances; but these are regarded by naturalists as exceptions to the general rule.

In several of the web-footed *mammalia* and *cetacea*, as in the common otter, the sea otter, and the dolphin, particular vessels are

\* Boylston Medical Prize Dissertations, for the years 1819 and 1821, p. 100, Boston, 1821.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c. ii. 430.

<sup>c</sup> See on the Infusion of different Medicinal Agents, Mr. Blake, Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, April, 1839.

found to be always greatly enlarged and tortuous;—a structure which has been chiefly noticed in the vena cava inferior, and which is supposed to serve the purpose of a diverticulum, whilst the animal is under water, or to receive a part of the returning blood, and to retain it until respiration can be resumed.

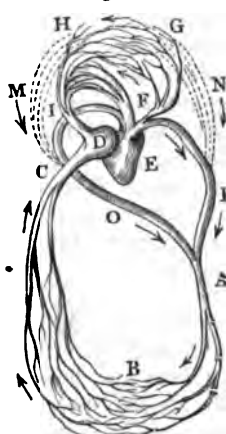
In *birds*, the structure of the heart universally possesses a singular peculiarity. Instead of the right ventricle having a membranous valve, as in the left, and as in all the mammalia, it is provided with a strong, tense, and nearly triangular muscle, which aids in the propulsion of the blood from the right side of the heart into the lungs. This is presumed to be necessary, in consequence of their lungs not admitting of expansion like those of the mammalia, and of their being connected with numerous air-cells.

The heart of *reptiles* or *amphibia* in general consists either of only one ventricle, or of two ventricles; which freely communicate, so as essentially to constitute but one. The number of auricles always corresponds with that of the ventricles. That the cavities—auricular or ventricular—are, however, single, although apparently double, is confirmed by the fact, that, in all, there is only a single artery proceeding from the heart, which serves both for the pulmonic and systemic circulations. After this vessel has left the heart, it divides into two branches, by one of which a part only of the blood is conveyed to the lungs, whilst the other proceeds to different parts of the body. These two portions are united in the heart, and after being mixed together are sent again through the great artery.

In these animals, therefore, aeration is obviously less extensive than in the higher classes; and we can thus understand many of their peculiarities; how the circulation may continue, when the animal is so situate as to be incapable, for a time, of respiration; and the great resistance to ordinary deranging influences, by which they are characterized.

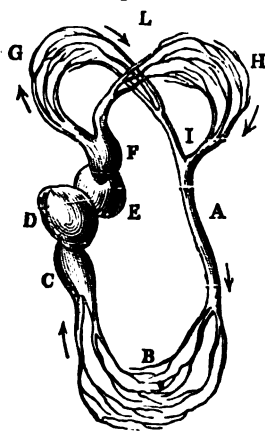
The marginal figure (Fig. 231) represents the circulatory apparatus of the *frog*; in which E is the ventricle and D the auricle. From the former arises the aorta F, which soon divides into two trunks. These, after sending branches to the head and neck, turn downwards, (O and P,) and unite in the single trunk A. This vessel sends arteries to the body and limbs, which ultimately terminate in veins, and unite to form the

Fig. 231.



Circulation in the Frog.

Fig. 232.



Circulation in Fishes.

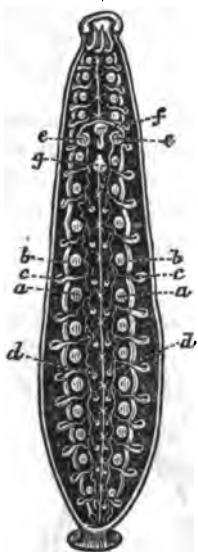
vena cava C. From each of the trunks into which the aorta bifurcates at its origin, arise the arteries F. These are distributed to the lungs, and communicate with the pulmonary veins, which return the blood to the auricle, D, where it becomes mixed with the blood of the systemic circulation.

In the *tadpole* state, the circulation is branchial, as in fishes. The heart then sends the whole of its blood to the *branchiæ* or gills, and it is returned by veins following the course of the dotted lines M and N, (Fig. 231.) which unite to form the descending aorta. As the lungs undergo their developement, small arterial branches arise from the aorta and are distributed to those organs, and in proportion as these arteries enlarge, the original branchial arteries diminish, until ultimately they are obliterated, and the blood flows wholly through the enlarged lateral trunks, O and P, which, by their union, form the descending aorta.

In *fishes*, the heart is extremely small, in proportion to the body; and its structure is simple; consisting of a single auricle and ventricle, D and E (Fig. 232). From the ventricle E an arterial trunk arises, which, in most fishes, is expanded, into a kind of bulb, F, as it

leaves the heart, and proceeds straight forward to the *branchiæ* or gills, G and H. From these, the blood passes into a large artery, A, analogous to the aorta, which proceeds along the spine, and conveys the blood to the various parts of the system; and, by the vena cava, C, the blood is returned to the auricle. This is, consequently, a case of single circulation.

Fig. 233.



Interior of the Leech.

a. a. Respiratory cells.  
b. b. Two large arteries.  
c. c. Mucous glands. d. d. Glands connected with the testicles. e. e. Testicles.  
f. Penis. g. Uterus.—(Sir E. Home.)

*Insects* appear to be devoid of blood-vessels. Cuvier examined all the organs in them, which, in red-blooded animals, are most vascular, without discovering the least appearance of a blood-vessel, although extremely minute ramifications of the trachea were obvious in every part. Insects, however, both in their perfect and larva state, have a membranous tube running along the back, in which alternate dilatations and contractions are perceptible; and which has been considered as their heart; but it is closed at both ends, and no vessels can be perceived to originate from it. To this the innumerable ramifications of the trachea convey the air, and thus, as Cuvier has remarked, "le sang ne pouvant aller chercher l'air, c'est l'air qui va chercher le sang;" ("the blood not being able to go in search of the air—the air seeks the blood.") Carus has, however, discovered a continuous circulation through arteries and veins in a few of the perfect insects, and especially in some larvæ.

Lastly, in many genera of the class *vermes*, particularly amongst the molluscous and testaceous animals, there is a manifest heart,

which is sometimes of a singular structure. Some of the bivalves are affirmed to have as many as four auricles; whilst many animals, as the leech and *Lumbricus marinus*, have no heart; but circulating vessels exist, in which contraction and dilatation are perceptible.

The marginal figure, (Fig. 233,) of the interior of a leech, given by Sir Everard Home, will exhibit the mode of circulation and respiration in that animal. There is no heart, but a large vessel exists on each side of the animal. The water is received, through openings in the belly, into the cells or respiratory organs, and passes out through the same.\*

## CHAPTER V.

### NUTRITION.

THE investigation of the phenomena of the circulation has exhibited the mode in which arterial blood is distributed over the body in minute vessels, not appreciable by the naked eye, and often not even with the microscope, and so numerous, that it is impossible for the finest-pointed instrument to be forced through the skin without penetrating one, and perhaps several. We have seen, likewise, that, in the capillary system of vessels, this arterial blood is changed into venous; and it was observed, that in the same system, parts are deposited or separated from the blood, and certain phenomena accomplished, into the nature of which we have now to inquire, beginning with those of *nutrition*, which comprise the incessant changes that are taking place in the body, both of absorption and deposition, and which effect the decomposition and renovation of each organ. Nutrition is well defined by Adelon<sup>b</sup> as the action, by which every part of the body, on the one hand, appropriates or assimilates to itself a portion of the blood distributed to it; and, on the other, yields to the absorbing vessels a portion of the materials that previously composed it. The precise character of the apparatus, by which this important function is accomplished, we have no exact means of knowing. All admit, however, that the old matter must be taken up by absorbents, and the new be deposited by arteries, or by vessels, continuous with them. As the precise arrangement of these minute vessels is not perceptible by the eye, even when aided by powerful instruments, their arrangement has given rise to much controversy. Whilst some have imagined lateral pores in the capillary system of vessels, for the transudation of nutritive deposits; others have presumed, that inconceivably small vessels are given off from the capillary system, which constitute a distinct order, and whose function is to exhale the nutritive substance. Hence, they have been termed *exhalants* or *nutritive exhalants*; but the physiological student must bear in mind, that

\* See, on all this subject, *Roget's Animal and Vegetable Physiology*, Amer edit. ii. 137, Philad. 1836; art. Circulation, by Dr. Allen Thomson, in *Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology*, p. 641, Lond. 1836; and Carpenter, *Principles of General and Comparative Physiology*, 2d edit. Lond. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, tom. iii. p. 359, 2de édit. Paris, 1829.

whenever the term is used by writers, they do not always pledge themselves to the existence of any distinct set of vessels, but merely mean the capillary vessel, whatever may be its nature, which is the agent of nutrition, and conveys the blood to the different tissues.

In investigating the physiology of nutrition, two topics necessarily divide our attention; 1st. The action of *decomposition*, by which the organ yields to the absorbing vessels a portion of its constituents; and 2dly. The action of *composition*, by which the organ assimilates a part of the arterial blood that enters it, and supplies the loss which it has sustained by the previous action of decomposition. The former of these actions obviously belongs to the function of absorption; but its physiology was deferred, in consequence of its close application to the function we are now considering. It comprises what is meant by *interstitial, organic, or decomposing absorption*, and does not require many comments, after the long investigation of the general phenomena of absorption into which we entered. The conclusion, at which we then arrived, was,—that the chyliferous and lymphatic vessels form only chyle and lymph respectively, refusing the admission of all other substances; that the veins admit every liquid which possesses the necessary tenuity; and that, whilst all the absorptions,—which require the substance acted upon to be decomposed and transformed,—are effected by the chyliferous and lymphatic vessels, those that demand no alteration are accomplished through the coats of the veins by imbibition. It is easy, then, to deduce the agents to which we refer the absorption of decomposition. As it is exerted on solids, and as these cannot pass through the coats of the vessel in their solid condition, it follows, that other agents than the veins must accomplish the process; and, again, as we never find in the lymphatic vessels any thing but lymph, and as we have every reason to believe that an action of selection is exerted at their extremities, similar to that of the chyliferous vessels on the heterogeneous substances exposed to them, we naturally look to the lymphatics as the main, if not the sole, organs, concerned in the absorption of solids.

It has been maintained, by some physiologists, that the different tissues are endowed with a vital attractive and elective force, which they exert upon the blood;—that each tissue attracts only those constituents of which it is itself composed; and thus, that the whole function of nutrition is an affair of elective affinity; but this, obviously, cannot be the force that presides over the original formation of the tissues in the embryo. An attraction cannot be exerted by parts not yet in existence. To account for this, it has been imagined, that a peculiar force is destined to preside over formation and nutrition, and to this force various names have been assigned. By most of the ancients it was termed *facultas formatrix, nutritrix, auctrix*; by Van Helmont,<sup>a</sup> *Blas alterativum*; and by Bacon,<sup>b</sup> *motus assimilationis*. It was the *facultas vegetativa* of Harvey;<sup>c</sup> the *anima vegetativa* of Stahl;<sup>d</sup> the *puissance du moule intérieur* of Buffon;<sup>e</sup> the *vis essentialis* of C.

<sup>a</sup> Opera, pars i.

<sup>c</sup> De Generatione Animalium, Lond. 1651, p. 170.

<sup>d</sup> Theoria Medica Vera. Hal., 1708.

<sup>b</sup> Novum Organum, lib. ii., aphor. 48.

<sup>e</sup> Histoire Naturelle, tom. ii.



F. Wolff;<sup>a</sup> and the *Bildungstrieb* or *nîsus formativus* of Blumenbach and most of the German writers.<sup>b</sup> This force is meant, when writers speak of the *plastic force*, *force of nutrition*, *force of formation*, and *force of vegetation*. Whatever difference there may be in the terms selected, all appear to regard it as charged with maintaining, for a certain length of time, living bodies and all their parts, in the possession of their due composition, organization, and vital properties, and of putting them in a condition, during a certain period of their existence, to produce beings of the same kind as themselves. It is obvious, however, that none of these terms elucidate the intricate phenomena of nutrition, and that none express more than—that living bodies possess a *vital force*, under the action of which, formation and nutrition are accomplished.

Under the idea, that all the vessels of the intermediate system are possessed of coats, it is not so easy to comprehend how either nutrition or secretion can be accomplished. Lateral pores, as we shall see under the head of Secretion, have been imagined. This supposed arrangement, however, provided it existed, which has not been, and cannot easily be demonstrated,<sup>c</sup> would not materially elucidate the subject; but were we to adopt the opinion, before referred to, that many of the vessels of the capillary system consist of membraneless or coatless tubes, we might comprehend, that by the elective and attractive forces possessed by the tissues and exerted by them on the blood, materials may be obtained from that fluid as it passes through the intermediate system, which may be inservient to the nutrition of the various tissues that are bathed by it,—the mode in which the blood is distributed through the tissues resembling that in which the water of a river is distributed through a marsh, conveying to the vegetable bodies that flourish on its surface, the materials for their nutrition. To adopt the language of an intelligent and philosophical writer,<sup>d</sup> “In every part of the body, in the brain, the heart, the lung, the muscle, the membrane, the bone, each tissue attracts only those constituents of which it is itself composed. Thus the common current, rich in all the proximate constituents of the tissues, flows out to each. As the current approaches the tissue, the particles appropriate to the tissue feel its attractive force, obey it, quit the stream, mingle with the substance of the tissue, become identified with it, and are changed into its own true and proper nature. Meantime, the particles which are not appropriate to that particular tissue, not being attracted by it, do not quit the current, but, passing on, are borne by other capillaries to other tissues, to which they are appropriate, and by which they are apprehended and assimilated. When it has given to the tissues the constituents with which it abounded, and received from them particles no longer useful, and which would become noxious, the blood flows into the veins, to be returned by the pulmonary heart to the lung, where, parting with the useless and noxious

<sup>a</sup> *De Generatione*, Hal., 1759.

<sup>b</sup> *Comment. Societ. Gotting.*, tom. viii.; Elliotson's *Blumenbach's Physiology*, 4th edit., Lond. 1828, p. 490; and Tiedemann's *Traité de Physiologie*, par Jourdan, p. 405, Paris, 1831.

<sup>c</sup> Mandl, *Manuel d'Anatomie Générale*, p. 186, Paris, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> *The Philosophy of Health*, by Dr. Southwood Smith, vol. i., p. 405, London, 1835.

matter it has accumulated, and replenished with new proximate principles, it returns to the systemic heart, by which it is again sent back to the tissues." Particles of blood are seen to quit the current and mingle with the tissues; particles are seen to quit the tissues, and mingle with the current; but all that we can see, as Dr. Smith has remarked, with the best aid we can get, does but bring us to the confines of the grand operations that go on, of which we are altogether ignorant. It would not seem, however, to be necessary for the nutrition of certain parts, that they should receive capillary vessels. There are tissues, commonly termed extra-vascular, in the substance of which neither injection nor the microscope has exhibited the existence of blood-vessels, which would seem to derive their nourishment from blood flowing in the vessels of adjacent tissues by imbibition. To these belong the crystalline, the epidermis and epithelium, hair, nails, enamel of the teeth, &c., &c.\*

We have said that the main, if not the sole, agents of the absorption of solids, are the lymphatics. Almost all admit, that they receive the product of absorption; but all do not admit, that the action of taking up solid parts is accomplished immediately by the absorbents. They who think, that a kind of spongy tissue or "parenchyma" is situate at the radicles of the absorbent vessels, believe that this sponge possesses a vital action of absorption, when bodies, possessing the requisite constitution and consistence, are put in contact with it; but they maintain that the solid parts of the body are broken down by the same agents—the extreme arteries—which secreted them, and that, when reduced to the proper fluid condition, they are imbibed by the parenchyma, and conveyed into the lymphatics. If the existence of this sponge were demonstrated, the above explanation would be the only one, perhaps, that could be admitted; for the sponge could scarcely be conceived to do more than imbibe; it could not break down the solid textures, and reduce them to lymph—the only fluid which, as we have seen, is ever met with in the lymphatic vessels. But its existence is altogether supposititious. Besides, the arrangement has not been invoked in favour of the chyliiferous vessels, which are so analogous in their organization and functions to the lymphatics. It has not been contended, that the arteries of the intestinal canal form the chyle from the alimentary matters in the small intestine, and that the office of the chyliiferous vessels is restricted to the reception of this chyle, imbibed and brought in contact with their radicles by this ideal sponge or parenchyma.

We have before shown, that there is every reason for the belief, that a vital action of selection and elaboration exists at the very radicles of the chyliiferous vessels; and the same may be inferred of the radicles of the lymphatics. The great difficulty is in believing how either exhaling artery or absorbing lymphatic can reduce the solid matter—of bone, for example—to the necessary constitution and consistence to enter the lymphatics; but we can conceive, that the latter as readily as the former, by virtue of its vital properties—for the ope-

\* Mr. J. Toynbee, *Philos. Transact.*, 1841; and *Medico-chirurg. Rev.*, April, 1842, p. 426; also, Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, Amer. edit., p. 461, Philad. 1843.

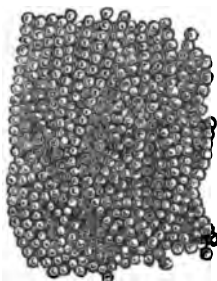
ration must be admitted by all to be *vital*—and by means of its contained fluid, may soften the solid so as to admit of its being received into the vessel. We leave, then, wholly unexplained, the mysterious operation by which these absorbents are enabled to reduce to their elements, bone, muscle, tendon, &c., and to recompose them into the form of lymph. Dr. Bostock\* fancifully suggests, that the first step in this series of operations is the death of the part, by which expression he means, that it is no longer under the influence of arterial action. "It therefore ceases to receive the supply of matter which is essential to the support of all vital parts, and the process of decomposition necessarily commences." The whole of his remarks on this subject are eminently gratuitous, and appear to be suggested by his extreme unwillingness to ascribe the process to any thing but physical causes. If there be, however, any one phenomenon of the animal economy, which is more manifestly referable to vital action than another, it is the function of nutrition, both as regards the absorption of parts already deposited, and the exhalation of new. We know that the blood contains most of the principles that are necessary for the nutrition of organs, and that it must contain the elements of all. Fibrin, albumen, fat, osmazome, salts, &c., exist in it, and these are deposited, as the blood traverses the tissues; but why one should be selected by one set of vessels, as by the exhalants of bone, and another by another set, and in what manner the elements of those, not already formed in the blood, are brought together, is unknown to us. Blood has been designated as "liquid flesh,"—*chair coulante*,—but something more than simple transudation through vessels is necessary to form it into flesh, and to give it the compound organization of fibrin, gelatin, osmazome, &c.—in the form of muscular fibre and cellular membrane—which we observe in the muscle. Nothing, perhaps, more clearly exhibited the want of knowledge on this subject than the following vague attempt at solving the mystery by one of the most distinguished physiologists of the age. "Some immediate principles, that enter into the composition of the organs or of the fluids, are not found in the blood,—such as gelatin, uric acid, &c. They are consequently formed at the expense of other principles, in the parenchyma of the organs, and by a chemical action, the nature of which is unknown to us, but which is not the less real, and must necessarily have the effect of developing heat and electricity."

The views of recent histologists have approximated us more to a true knowledge of this mysterious action. They have not been content with endeavouring to reduce the different organized textures to primary fibres and filaments, but, by the aid of the microscope, they have attempted to discover the particular arrangement and mode of formation of the constituent corpuscles. The discovery of that valuable instrument gave the impulse, and very soon the scientific world was presented with the results obtained by numerous observers. These observations have been, from time to time, continued until the present day. It is, however, to be regretted, that, until recently, our information, derived from this source, was not as accurate as was

\* *Physiol.*, edit. cit., p. 625.

desirable. From different quarters, the most discordant statements were presented, exhibiting clearly, either that the narrators employed instruments of very different powers, or that they were blinded, or had the vision depraved, by preconceived theories or hypotheses. One of the very first effects of the discovery of the microscope was the detection of a globular structure of the primitive tissues of the body, by Leeuwenhoek,<sup>a</sup> an announcement that gave rise to much controversy, which has continued, indeed, till the present time, and has engaged the attention particularly of Prochaska,<sup>b</sup> Fontana,<sup>c</sup> Sir Everard Home, Mr. Bauer, the brothers Wenzel,<sup>d</sup> Dr. Milne Edwards, MM. Prévost and Dumas,<sup>e</sup> Dutrochet, Hodgkin,<sup>f</sup> Raspail, and others. The observations and experiments of Dr. Edwards especially occasioned at the time much interesting speculation and inquiry. They may perhaps be taken as the foundation on which the believers in the globular structure rest their opinions. His views were first published in 1823, in a communication, entitled "*Mémoire sur la Structure élémentaire des principaux Tissus Organiques des Animaux*;" and in a second article in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, for December, 1826, entitled "*Recherches microscopiques sur la Structure intime des Tissus Organiques des Animaux*." He examined all the principal textures of the body, the cellular tissue, the membranes, tendons, muscular fibre, nervous tissue, the skin, the coats of the blood-vessels,

Fig. 234.



Cellular Tissue.

&c. When the cellular tissue was viewed through a powerful lens, it seemed to consist of cylinders; but, by using still higher magnifying powers, these cylinders were found to be formed of rows of globules all of the same size, that is, about the  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th or  $\frac{1}{800}$ th of an inch in diameter (Fig. 234); separated from each other, and lying in various directions; crossing and interlacing; some of the rows straight, others bent, and some twisted, forming irregular layers, united by a kind of network. The membranes, which consist of cellular tissue, were found to present exactly the same kind of arrangement. The muscular fibre, when examined in the like manner, was found to be formed of globules also  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th part of an inch in diameter. Here, however, the rows of globules are always parallel. The fibres never intersect each other like those of cellular tissue, and this is the only discernible difference,—the form and size of the globules being alike. The size of the globules, and the linear arrangement they assume, seemed to be the same in all animals that possess a muscular structure. (Fig. 235.)

The nervous structure has, by almost all observers, been esteemed

<sup>a</sup> Opera Omnia, &c., Lugdun. Batav. 1722.

<sup>b</sup> De Structurâ Nervorum, Vind. 1779.

<sup>c</sup> Sur les Poisons, ii. 18.

<sup>d</sup> De Structurâ Cerebri, Tubing. 1812.

<sup>e</sup> Bibliothèque Universelle des Sciences et Arts, t. xvii.

<sup>f</sup> In Drs. Hodgkin and Fisher's translation of W. Edwards, Sur les Agens Physiques, Lond. 1832; and Hodgkin's Lectures on the Morbid Anatomy of the Serous and Mucous Membranes, p. 26, Lond. 1836; or Dunglison's Amer. Med. Lib. edit. Phil. 1838.

globular—and one of the recent observers\* has satisfied himself that this is certainly the most uniform appearance. The examination of Dr. Edwards yielded similar results. It seemed to be composed of lines of globules of the same size with those that form the cellular membrane and the muscles; but holding an intermediate place as to the regularity of their arrangement, and having a fatty matter interposed between the rows. In regard to the size of the globules, Dr. Edwards, however, differed materially from an accurate and experienced microscopic observer, Mr. Bauer,<sup>b</sup> who asserted that the cerebral globules are of various sizes. (Fig. 236.) From the results of his own diversified observations, Dr. Edwards concluded, that “spherical corpuscles, of the diameter of  $\frac{1}{100}$ th of a millimètre, constitute by their aggregation all the organic textures, whatever may be the properties, in other respects, of those parts, and the functions for which they are destined.”

Fig. 235.

*Muscular Tissue.*

The harmony and simplicity, which would thus seem to reign through the structures of the animal body, attracted great attention to the labours of Dr. Edwards. The vegetable kingdom was subjected to equal scrutiny; and, what seemed still more astounding, it was affirmed, that the microscope proved it also to be constituted of globules exactly like those of the animal, and of the same magnitude,  $\frac{1}{100}$ th of an inch in diameter; hence, it was assumed, that all organized bodies possess the same elementary structure, and of necessity, that the animal and the vegetable are readily convertible into each other under favourable circumstances, and that they differ only in the greater or less complexity of their organization. Independently of all other objections, however, the animal differs, as we have seen, from the vegetable, in composition; and this difference must exist not only in the whole, but in its parts; so that, even were it demonstrated that the globules of the beings of the two kingdoms are alike in size, it would by no means follow that they should be identical in intimate composition.

Fig. 236.

*Nervous Tissue.*

The discordance which we have deplored, is strikingly applicable to the case before us. The appearance of the memoir of Dr. Edwards excited the attention of Dutrochet, and in the following year his “*Researches*” on the same subject were published, in which he asserts, that the globules, which compose the different structures of the invertebrated animals, are considerably larger than those of the vertebrated; that the former appear to consist of cells, containing other globules still smaller; and hence he infers, that the globules of ver-

\* Dr. Luigi Calori, in *Bulletino dello Scienze Medich. di Bologna*, Sett. 1836, p. 152.

<sup>b</sup> *Philosoph. Transact.* for 1818; and Sir E. Home's *Lectures on Comparative Anatomy*, vol. iii. lect. 3, Lond. 1823.

tebrated animals are likewise cellular, and contain series of still smaller globules. Dr. Edwards, in his experiments, found, that the globules of the nervous tissue, whether examined in the brain, in the spinal cord, in the ganglia, or in the nerves, have the same shape and diameter, and that no difference can be distinguished in them, from whatever animal the tissue is taken. Dutrochet, on the other hand, considers, with Sir Everard Home, and the brothers Wenzel, that the globules of the brain are cellules of extreme minuteness, containing a medullary or nervous substance, which is capable of becoming concrete by the action of heat and of acids. This structure, he remarks,

Fig. 237.



Cellules of Brain.

is strikingly evidenced in certain molluscos. animals; and he instances the small pulpy nucleus, forming the cerebral hemisphere of *limax rufus*, and *helix pomatia*, composed of globular, agglomerated cellules, on the parietes of which a considerable number of globular or ovoid corpuscles are perceptible. (Fig. 237.)

M. Dutrochet, again, did not find the structure of the nerves to correspond with that of the brain. He asserts, that the elementary fibres, which enter into their composition, do not consist simply of rows of globules, according to the opinion of Edwards and others, but that they are cylinders of a diaphanous substance, the surface of which is studded with globular corpuscles, and that, as these cover the whole surface of the cylinder, we are led to believe that they are situate internally. After detailing this difference of structure between the brain and the nerves, the former consisting chiefly of nervous corpuscles, the latter chiefly of cylinders or fibres, Dutrochet announces the hypothesis, which exhibits too many indications of having been formed prior to his microscopic investigations,—that these cerebral corpuscles are destined for the production of the nervous power, and that the nervous fibres are tubes, filled with a peculiar fluid, by the agency of which *nervimotion* is effected. For further developements of the views of Dutrochet, the reader is referred to the work itself, which exhibits all the author's ingenuity and enthusiasm, but can scarcely be considered historical.

The beautiful superstructure of Dr. Edwards, and the ingenuity of Dutrochet, were, however, most fatally assailed by subsequent experiments, with a microscope of unusual power, by Dr. Hodgkin. The globular structure of the animal tissues, so often developed, and apparently so clearly and satisfactorily established by Dr. M. Edwards, is, as we are told by Dr. Hodgkin,<sup>a</sup> a mere deception; and the most minute parts of the cellular membrane, muscles, and nerves, had again to be referred to the striated or fibrous arrangement. A part of the discrepancy between Messrs. Edwards and Dutrochet may be explained by the fact of the former using an instrument of greater magnifying power than the latter, who employed the simple microscope only. It has been observed, that when Dr. Edwards used an ordinary lens, the arrangement of a tissue appeared cylindrical, which, with the compound microscope, was distinctly globular. The dis-

<sup>a</sup> Op. citat. p. 466. See, also, Grainger's Elements of General Anatomy. London, 1829.

cordance between Messrs. Edwards and Hodgkin was reconcilable with more difficulty. On the whole subject, indeed, minds were kept in a state of doubt, and the rational physiologist waited for ulterior developments. Messrs. Prévost and Dumas, and Dr. Edwards, farther affirmed, that all the proximate principles—albumen, fibrin, gelatin, &c.,—assume a globular form, whenever they pass from the fluid to the solid state, whatever may be the cause producing such conversion. M. Raspail<sup>a</sup> ranged himself among those who considered, that the ultimate structure of all organic textures is vesicular, and that the organic molecule, in its simplest form, is an imperforate vesicle, endowed with the faculty of inspiring gaseous and liquid substances, and of expiring again such of their decomposed elements, as it cannot assimilate;—properties, which he conceived it to possess under the influence of vitality. His views contain, perhaps, the germ of those that follow, and that now occupy the minds of observers.

The microscopical researches of Schwann and Schleiden<sup>b</sup> led them to affirm, that the new-forming tissues of vegetables originate from a liquid gum or vegetable mucus, and those of animals probably from the liquor sanguinis, which consists essentially of fibrin, after transudation from the capillary vessels. This substance itself, in a state fully prepared for the formation of the tissue, is termed by them *intercellular substance* and *cytoblastema*. In the first instance, it exhibits minute granular points, which grow and become more regular and defined from the agglomeration of the minuter granules around the larger, constituting *nuclei* or *cytoblasts*, having, when fully formed, and in fact formed before them, one or more well-defined bodies within them, called *nucleoli*. From the cytoblasts, *cells*—primordial cells—are formed. A transparent vesicle grows over each, and becomes filled with fluid; this gradually extends and becomes so large that the cytoblast appears like a small body within its walls. The form of the cells is at first irregular, then more regular, and they are alternately flattened by pressure against each other, assuming different forms in different tissues. Such is their description of the vegetable cells from which all the tissues of plants take their origin. In like manner, the tissues of animals are formed from a fluid, in which first nucleoli, then nuclei or cytoblasts, and then cells, are developed. The globules of lymph, pus, and mucus, according to them, are cells with their walls distinct and isolated from each other; horny tissues are cells with distinct walls, but united into coherent tissues; bone, cartilage, &c., are formed of cells whose walls have coalesced; cellular tissues, tendon, &c., are cells which have split into fibres, and mus-

Fig. 238.



Primary organic cell, showing the germinal cell, nucleus, and nucleolus.—(Todd and Bowman.)

<sup>a</sup> Op. citat. § 126.

<sup>b</sup> Mikroskopische Untersuchungen über die Uebereinstimmung in der Struktur und dem Wachstum der Thiere und Pflanzen, von Dr. Th. Schwann und Schleiden, in Müller's Archiv. p. 137, 1838; and an interesting notice of the same, in Brit. and For. Med. Review, p. 495, April, 1840. See, also, Müller, Henle, Carpenter, Wagner, Brauns, and Mandl.

cles, nerves, and capillary vessels are cells of which both the walls and cavities have coalesced.

According to the fashionable doctrine of the day, these cells possess an independent life, and a limited duration, which has no immediate connexion with that of the organism, and the continual decomposition, which is taking place in the living body, is connected with the death of the cells of which the several parts are constructed; and for the reintroduction of which into the circulating fluid, the lymphatic system appears to be specially destined.\* By virtue of this vital power, they not only attract but change the substance brought into contact with them, or in other words, have a power of self-nutrition. That this is probably independent of the nerves is shown by an experiment of Dr. Sharpey, in which the reproduction of a portion of the tail of a salamander took place, although it was cut off, after the organ had been completely paralysed by dissecting out at its root a portion of the spinal cord, together with the arches of the vertebræ.<sup>b</sup>

To this doctrine of cell formation, Mr. Goodsir<sup>c</sup> has made several important additions. Amongst other observations, he states, that besides all organs and tissues having their origin in and consisting essentially of simple or developed cells possessed of a peculiar independent vitality, these component cells are moreover divided into numerous departments, each of which consists of several cells arranged round one central or capital cell, which latter is the source whence all the other cells in its own department have derived their origin. To each of these several central nucleated cells he gives the name *nutritive centre* or *germinal spot*. Each nutritive centre possesses the power of absorbing materials of nourishment from the surrounding vessels, and of generating, by means of its nucleus, successive broods of young cells, which from time to time fill the cavity of the parent cell, and carrying with them its cell-wall, pass off in certain directions, and under various forms, according to the texture or organ of which their parent forms a part. There are two kinds of nutritive centres, those which are peculiar to the textures, and those which belong to the organs. The former are in general permanent; the latter are mostly peculiar to the embryonic state, and ultimately disappear. There is one form in which the nutritive centres are arranged both in healthy and morbid parts, which constitutes what Mr. Goodsir calls a *germinal membrane*. It is only met with on the free surface of organs or parts. It is a fine transparent membrane, consisting of cells arranged at equal and variable distances within it. The centres of these component cells are flattened, so that their walls form the membrane by cohering at their edges, and their nuclei remain in its substance as the germinal centres. One surface of the membrane is attached to the surface of the organ or part, and is therefore applied upon a more or less richly vascular tissue; the

\* Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 645, Amer. edit. Philad. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Ancell, *Lectures on the Physiology, &c., of the Blood*, in *Lond. Lancet*, p. 157, April 25, 1840.

<sup>c</sup> *Anatomical and Pathological Observations*, p. 1, Edinb. 1845; cited in *Ranking's Abstract*, p. 263, Amer. edit. New York, 1845.



other surface is free, and it is on it only that the developed or secondary cells of its germinal spot are attached. These secondary cells, whilst forming, are contained between the two layers of the germinal membrane; but as they become fully developed, they carry forward the anterior layer, and become attached to the free surface, whilst the nuclei are left in the substance of the posterior layer in close contact with the blood-vessels, from which they derive the materials for the formation of new cells.

The doctrine of the developement of all the organic tissues from cells is now embraced by almost all histological inquirers; yet there are some who doubt it; and others, who by no means regard it as applicable to all the tissues. Thus, Mandl,<sup>a</sup> one of the latest histologists, objects to the term *cytoblastema* as applicable to the matrix or organizing material of the tissues, because it necessarily involves the supposition that it gives origin to cells. According to him, the elements, which are developed in the *blastema*—as he prefers to call it—do not generally deserve the name of cells, inasmuch as they may either liquefy as in the glands; consolidate as in the amorphous membranes; or become transformed directly into fibres, as in the cellular tissue. Mr. Gulliver,<sup>b</sup> too, has inferred from his observations, that the mere extension of the parietes of the cells is not essential to the formation of all tissues, since fine fibres or fibrils are found in fibrin that has coagulated even out of the body. He has, also, given several figures to exhibit the analogy of structure between false membranes and fibrin coagulated after death, or after the removal of the blood from the body. Schwann, on the other hand, lays down the rule, which he considers of universal application, that all the organic tissues, however different they may be, have one common principle of developement as their basis, viz., the formation of cells;—that is to say, nature never unites molecules immediately into a fibre, a tube, &c.; but she always, in the first instance, forms a round cell, or changes, when it is requisite, the cells into the various primary tissues as they present themselves in the adult state; but “how,” says Mr. Gulliver, “is the origin of the fibrils, which I have depicted in so many varieties of fibrin, to be reconciled with this doctrine? and what is the proof that these fibrils may not be the primordial fibres of animal textures? I could never see any satisfactory evidence, that the fibrils of fibrin are changed cells; and indeed, in many cases, the fibrils are formed so quickly after coagulation, that their production, according to the views of the eminent physiologist just quoted [Schwann], would hardly seem possible. Nor have I been able to see that these fibrils arise from the interior of the blood-disks, like certain fibres delineated in the last interesting researches of Dr. Barry.” Mr. T. Wharton Jones,<sup>c</sup> also, in a paper read to the Royal Society, on the 8th of December, 1842, has considered the notion entertained by Dr. Barry,<sup>d</sup> that a fibre exists in the

<sup>a</sup> Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 549. Paris, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Appendix to Gerber's Anatomy, Atlas, p. 60, and Figs. 244-6. Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> Lond. and Edinb. Philosoph. Magazine, Oct. 1842; see, also, Andral, Hématologie Pathologique, p. 77. Paris, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Proceedings of the Royal Society, No. 56.      • Philosophical Transactions for 1842.

interior of the blood corpuscles, and that these fibres, after their escape from thence, constitute the fibres which are formed by the consolidation of the fibrin of the liquor sanguinis, to be wholly erroneous. He regards the appearance as altogether illusive.

Dr. Carpenter,<sup>a</sup> in remarking on Mr. Gulliver's figures, all of which, as he properly observes, clearly show, that a small portion of coagulated fibrin contains a far larger number of fibres than we can imagine to be contained in the number of blood-disks that would fill the same space, states, that he has discovered a very interesting example of a membrane composed almost entirely of matted fibres, which so strongly resembles the delineations of fibrous coagula given by Mr. Gulliver, that he cannot but believe in the identity of the process by which they are produced. This is the membrane enclosing the white of the egg, and forming the animal basis of the shell. If the shell be treated with dilute acid, a tough membrane remains, exactly resembling that which lines it; and if the hen have not been supplied with lime, there is no difference between the two membranes even without the action of acid on the outer one. Each of these membranes consists of numerous laminæ of most beautifully matted fibres intermixed with round bodies exactly resembling exudation cells. It is in the interstices of these fibres that the calcareous particles are deposited, which give density to the shell. These membranes, according to Dr. Carpenter, are formed around the albumen, which is deposited upon the surface of the ovary during its passage along the oviduct, from the interior of which the fibrinous exudation must take place.

It is clear, then, that this doctrine of the origin of all the tissues from cells, cannot be considered established. We believe, indeed, with a recent writer,<sup>b</sup> that most physiologists, who are not prejudiced by the seductive simplicity of Schwann's generalization as to the derivation of all the tissues from cells, have arrived at the conclusion, that as regards the areolar and other simple fibrous tissues, no other explanation of their production need be looked for than the known tendency of the particles of fibrin to arrange themselves in a linear manner so as to form fibres,—a tendency which “manifests itself much more decidedly, when the consolidation takes place upon a living surface than upon a dead one.”

Nor can ideas be esteemed more fixed in regard to the character of the matrix or blastema. Mandl<sup>c</sup> affirms, that we know not whether it is the albumen or fibrin of the blood. Others, and perhaps the majority of the present day, ascribe it to fibrin, between which, as we have elsewhere seen, and albumen, there is, according to Mulder, Liebig, and others, an almost identity of chemical composition. Fibrin, however, is considered to possess much higher vital properties, and the change of albumen into fibrin has been esteemed the first important step in the process of assimilation.<sup>d</sup> In the chyliferous

<sup>a</sup> See his interesting report on the Origin and Functions of Cells, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, for Jan., 1843, p. 277.

<sup>b</sup> *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, July, 1844, p. 95.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 548.

<sup>d</sup> Carpenter, *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Jan., 1843, p. 269.

vessels, the proportion of fibrin increases as the chyle and lymph proceed onwards in the vessels; whilst that of the albumen diminishes. Such, however, is not rigorously the fact, for on referring to the table slightly modified from that of Gerber, which has been given elsewhere (vol. i., p. 612), it will be seen, that in the afferent lacteals between the intestines and mesenteric glands, the albumen has been found in *minimum* quantity; in the efferent or central lacteals, from the mesenteric glands to the thoracic duct, in *maximum* quantity; and in the thoracic duct in *medium* quantity; whilst the fibrin goes on progressively increasing in the course of the chyle and lymph onwards. On the other hand, the fat was found to diminish progressively; so that there appears to be more probability that the fibrin is formed from the fat, directly or indirectly, than from the albumen. It would seem not improbable, that some nitrogenized substance like pepsin, or diastase in plants, is secreted from the parietes of the chyliferous vessels, which occasions a change in the elements of those constituents of the chyle, and is the earliest step of animalization; and the view is somewhat confirmed, perhaps, by the fact to which attention has been drawn by Mr. G. Ross,<sup>a</sup> that the constituents of fatty matter, added to those of uric acid, would very nearly give the atomic constituents of albumen; whence—as Dr. Carpenter<sup>b</sup> has remarked, it might be surmised, that when there is a demand for proteinaceous compounds in the system, nitrogenized matter, which would otherwise be thrown out of the system, may be united with non-nitrogenized compounds taken as food, in order to supply its wants. That there is an essential difference, however, between fibrin and albumen, notwithstanding their affirmed similarity in chemical composition, is shown by the fact, that effused fibrin has a tendency to spontaneous coagulation, whilst albumen requires the agency of heat; and that, as we have seen, there is an appearance of distinct organization in coagulated fibrin. This difference in properties would necessarily induce the belief, that the two substances differ more perhaps in chemical composition than the results of the analyses of Mulder, Liebig, and others, would seem to indicate; and such appears to be proved by the analyses of MM. Dumas and Cahours, which have been conducted on a very extensive scale, and show, that the proportion of carbon is seven per cent. less in fibrin than in albumen; whilst that of azote is from eight to nine per cent. more. A correct idea, these gentlemen think, may be formed of the elementary composition of fibrin by considering it a compound of casein, albumen, and ammonia.<sup>c</sup>

A view is entertained by many, that nothing but proteinaceous compounds can serve for the nutrition of the tissues; and that, as before remarked, gelatin is not adapted for this purpose. Liebig suggests, that it may be inservient to the nutrition of the gelatinous tissues; and Dr. Carpenter<sup>d</sup> says, there is no doubt, that it is incapable of being applied to the reconstruction of any but the gelatinous

<sup>a</sup> Lancet, 1842-3, vol. i.

<sup>b</sup> Op. cit., p. 492.

<sup>c</sup> Med. Examiner, October 14, 1843, p. 232.

<sup>d</sup> Principles of Human Physiology, 2d edit., p. 476, London, 1844.

tissues, and that it seems questionable, whether, even in these, it exists in a condition that can rightly be termed organized: yet it appears to the author, that great doubt may be entertained on this subject. The inconclusiveness of the experiments made on gelatin as an article of food has been animadverted on elsewhere (vol. i. p. 509): although not a proteinaceous compound, it is one that is highly azoted. When used as an aliment, it is not capable of being detected in the chyle or blood, and hence it must have undergone a metamorphosis; and probably into an albuminous compound; and it is certainly as difficult to comprehend how, under such circumstances, gelatin can be inservient to the nutrition of the gelatinous tissues when no gelatin is present in the blood, as to comprehend that it may be converted first into albumen and afterwards into fibrin. How gelatinous aliment, in other words, is formed into chyle and blood in which gelatin is not discoverable, and from these again gelatinous tissues are re-formed, is as incomprehensible as that any of the proteinaceous tissues should be constituted from the same pabulum; or that oleaginous aliments—as is admitted by some, who deny the same power to the gelatinous—should be convertible into proteinaceous compounds.

Such is the state of uncertainty in which we are compelled to rest in regard to this important function. None of the views can be esteemed established. They are in a state of transition; and all, perhaps, that we are justified in deducing is, that the vital property, which exists in organizable matters—in the fibrinous portion of the blood, and in the blastema furnished by the parents at a fecundating union—gives occasion to the formation of cells, in some cases—of fibres in others; and that the tissues are farther developed through the agency of this *cell-life* or *fibre-life*, so as to constitute all the textures of which the body is composed.\*

It is the action of nutrition, that occasions the constant fluctuations in the weight and size of the body, from the earliest embryo condition till advanced life. The cause of the developement or *growth* of organs and of the body generally, as well as of the limit, accurately assigned to such developement, according to the animal or vegetable species, is dependent upon vital laws that are unfathomable. Nor are we able to detect the precise mode in which the growth of parts is effected. It cannot be simple extension, for the obvious reason that the body and its various compartments augment in weight as well as in dimension. The rapidity with which certain growths are effected is astonishing. The *Bovista giganteum* has been known to increase, in a single night, from a mere point to the size of a large gourd, estimated to contain 48,000,000,000 cellules; and supposing twelve hours to have been necessary for its growth, the cells in it must have been produced at the rate of 4,000,000,000 an hour, or more than 66,000,000 a minute,—the greater part of the elements necessary for this astonishing formation being obtained from the air.<sup>b</sup> But these rapid growths possess little vitality, and their decay is

\* See, on all this subject, Carpenter, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1843, p. 259; and especially his Manual of Human Physiology, § 39, Amer. edit., Philad. 1846.

<sup>b</sup> Truman, Food and its Influence on Health and Disease, &c., p. 229, Lond. 1842.

almost as rapid as their production.\* Analogous growths—but not to the like extent—occur in the human body, and the same remark applies to them.

In the large trees of our forests we find a fresh layer or ring added each year to the stem, until the full period of developement; and it has been supposed that the growth of the animal body may be effected in a similar manner, both as regards its soft and harder materials,—that is, by layers deposited externally. That the long bones lengthen at their extremities is proved by an experiment of Mr. Hunter. Having exposed the tibia of a pig, he bored a hole into each extremity of the shaft, and inserted a shot. The distance between the shots was then accurately taken. Some months afterwards, the same bone was examined, and the shots were found at precisely their original distance from each other; but the extremities of the bone had extended much beyond their first distance from them. The flat bones also increase by a deposition at their margins, and the long bones by a similar deposition at their periphery,—additional circumstances strongly exhibiting the analogy between the successive developement of animals and vegetables. Exercise or rest, freedom from, or the existence of, pressure, produces augmentation of the size of organs, or the contrary; and there are certain medicines, as iodine, which are said to occasion the emaciation of particular organs only—as of the female mammæ. The effect of disease is likewise, in this respect, familiar and striking.<sup>b</sup>

The ancients had noticed the changes effected upon the body by the function we are considering, and attempted to estimate the period at which a thorough conversion might be accomplished, so that not one of its quondam constituents should be present. By some, this was supposed to be seven years; by others, three. It is hardly necessary to say, that in such a calculation we have nothing but conjecture to guide us. The nutrition of the body and of its parts varies, indeed, according to numerous circumstances. It is not the same during the period of growth as subsequently, when the absorption and deposition are balanced,—so far at least as concerns the augmentation of the body in one direction. Particular organs have, likewise, their period of developement, at which time the nutrition of such parts must necessarily be more active,—the organs of generation, for example, at the period of puberty; the enlargement of the mammæ in the female; the appearance of the beard and the amplification of the larynx in the male, &c. All these changes occur after a determinate plan.

The activity of nutrition appears to be increased by exercise, at least in the muscular organs; hence the well-marked muscles of the arm in the prize-fighter, of the legs in the dancer, &c. The muscles of the male are, in general, much more clearly defined; but the difference between those of the hard-working female and of the inactive male may not be very apparent.

\* Carpenter, *Animal Physiology*, pp. 118, 130, London, 1843; and *Human Physiology*, Amer. edit., p. 411, Philad. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> See the author's *General Therapeutics*, p. 419, Philad. 1836; and his *General Therapeutics and Mat. Med.*, vol. ii. 3d edit. Philad. 1846.

The most active organs in their nutrition are the glands, muscles, and skin, which alter their character—as to size, colour, and consistence—with great rapidity; whilst the tendons, fibrous membranes, bones, &c., are much less so, and are altered more slowly by the effect of disease. A practice, which prevails amongst certain professions and people, would seem at first sight to show that the nutrition of the skin cannot be energetic. Sailors are frequently in the habit of forcing gunpowder through the cuticle with a pointed instrument, and of figuring the initials of their names upon the arm in this manner: the particles of the gunpowder are thus driven into the cutis vera and remain for life. The operation of *tattooing*, or of puncturing and staining the skin, prevails in many parts of the globe, and especially in Polynesia, where it is looked upon as greatly ornamental. The art is said to be carried to its greatest perfection in the

Fig. 239.

*Tattooed Head of a New Zealand Chief.*

Washington or New Marquesas Islands;<sup>a</sup> where the wealthy are often covered with various designs from head to foot; subjecting themselves to a most painful operation for this strange kind of personal decoration. The operation consists in puncturing the skin with some rude instrument, according to figures previously traced upon it, and then rubbing into the punctures a thick dye, frequently composed of the ashes of the plant that furnishes the colouring matter. The marks, thus made, are indelible. Magendie<sup>b</sup> asks:—“How can we reconcile this phenomenon with the renovation, which, according to authors,” (and he might have added, according to himself,) “happens to the skin?” It does not seem to

us to be in any manner connected with the nutrition of the skin. The colouring matter is an extraneous substance, which takes no part in the changes constantly going on in the tissue in which it is embedded; and the circumstance seems to afford a negative argument in favour of venous absorption. Had the substance possessed the necessary tenuity, it would have entered the veins like other colouring matters; but the particles are too gross for this, and hence they remain free from all absorbing influence.

<sup>a</sup> Lawrence's *Lectures on Physiology, &c.*, p. 411, Lond. 1819.

<sup>b</sup> *Précis, &c.*, edit. cit. ii. 483.

## CHAPTER VI.

## CALORIFICATION.

THE function, which we have now to consider, is one of the most important to organic existence, and one of the most curious in its causes and results. It has, consequently, been an object of interesting examination with the physiologist, both in animals and plants; and as it has been presumed, by a large class of speculatists, to be greatly owing to respiration, it has been a favourite topic with the chemist also. Most of the hypotheses, devised for its explanation, have, indeed, been of a chemical character; and hence it will be advisable to premise a few observations regarding the physical relations of *caloric* or the *matter of heat*,—an imponderable body, according to common belief, which is generally distributed throughout nature. It is this that constitutes the *temperature of bodies*,—by which is meant, the sensation of heat or cold, which we experience, when bodies are touched by us; or the height at which the mercury is raised or depressed by them, in the instrument called the *thermometer*;—the elevation of the mercury being caused by the caloric entering between its particles; and thus adding to its bulk; and the depression being produced by the abstraction of caloric.

Caloric exists in bodies in two states;—in the *free, uncombined or sensible*, and in the *latent or combined*. In the latter case, it is intimately united with the other elementary constituents of bodies, and is neither indicated by the feelings nor by the thermometer. It has, consequently, no agency in the temperature of bodies; but, by its proportion to the force of cohesion, it determines their condition;—whether they shall be solid, liquid or gaseous. In the former case, caloric is simply interposed between the molecules, and is incessantly disengaged, or abstracted from surrounding bodies; and, by impressing the surface of the body or by acting upon the thermometer, it indicates to us their temperature. Equal weights of the same body, at the same temperature, contain the same quantities of caloric; but equal weights of different bodies, at the same temperature, have by no means the same quantities. The quantity, which one body contains, compared with that in another, is called its *specific caloric*, or *specific heat*; and the power or property, which enables bodies to retain different quantities of caloric, is called *capacity for caloric*. If a pound of water, heated to  $156^{\circ}$ , be mixed with a pound of quicksilver at  $40^{\circ}$ , the resulting temperature is  $152^{\circ}$ ,—instead of  $98^{\circ}$ , the exact mean. The water, consequently, must have lost four degrees of temperature, and the quicksilver gained one hundred and twelve degrees; from which we deduce, that the quantity of caloric, capable of raising one pound of mercury from  $40^{\circ}$  to  $152^{\circ}$  is the same as that required to raise one pound of water from  $152^{\circ}$  to  $156^{\circ}$ ; or, in other words, that the same quantity of heat, which raises the temperature of a pound of water four degrees, raises the same weight of mercury one hundred and twelve degrees. Accordingly, it is said, that the

*capacity* of water for heat is to that of mercury, as 28 to 1; and that the *specific heat* is twenty-eight times greater.

All bodies are capable of giving and taking free caloric, and consequently, all have a temperature. If the quantity given off be great, the temperature of the body is elevated. If it take heat from the thermometer, it is cooler than the instrument. In inorganic bodies, the disengagement of caloric is induced by various causes,—such as electricity, friction, percussion, compression, the change of condition from a fluid to a solid state; and by chemical changes, giving rise to new compounds, so that the caloric, which was previously latent, becomes free. If, for example, two substances, each containing a certain amount of specific heat, unite, so as to form a compound whose specific heat is less, a portion of caloric must be set free, and this will be indicated by a rise in the temperature. It is this principle, which is chiefly concerned in some of the theories of calorification.

The subject of the equilibrium and conduction of caloric has already been treated of, under the sense of touch (vol. i., p. 111); where several other topics were discussed, that bear more or less upon the present inquiry. It was there stated, that inorganic bodies speedily attain the same temperature, either by radiation or conduction; so that the different objects in an apartment will exhibit the same degree of heat by the thermometer; but the temperature of animals, being the result of a vital operation, they retain the degree of heat peculiar to them, with but little modification from external temperature. There is a difference, however, in this respect, sufficient to cause the partition of animals into two great divisions—the *warm-blooded* and the *cold-blooded*; the former comprising those whose temperature is high, and but little influenced by that of external objects;—the latter those whose temperature is greatly modified by external influences. The range of the temperature of the warm-blooded—amongst which are all the higher animals—is limited; but of the cold-blooded extensive.\* The following table exhibits the temperature of various animals in round numbers;—that of man being 98° or 100°, when taken under the tongue. The temperature in the axilla is something less. In the latter situation, Dr. Edwards<sup>b</sup> found it to vary, in twenty adults, from 96° to 99° Fahrenheit, the mean being 97·5°.

ANIMALS.	OBSERVERS.	TEMPERATURE.
Active young horse, four years old, . . . . .	Metcalfe. <sup>c</sup>	104°
Arctic fox, . . . . .	Capt. Lyon. <sup>d</sup>	107
Arctic wolf, . . . . .	Do. }	105
Squirrel, . . . . .	Pallas. <sup>e</sup>	
Hare, . . . . .	Do. }	104
Whale, . . . . .	Scoresby. <sup>f</sup>	

\* Turner's Elements of Chemistry, 5th Amer. edit., by Prof. F. Bauche, from the 5th London, p. 5, Philad. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> De l'Influence des Agens Physiques, &c., Paris, 1824; or Hodgkin and Fisher's translation, Lond. 1832.

<sup>c</sup> Caloric, its Mechanical, Chemical, and Vital Agencies in the Phenomena of Nature, ii. 567, London, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Parry's Second Voyage to the Arctic Regions.

<sup>e</sup> Nov. Species Quadruped. de Glirium Ordine, Erlang. 1774.

<sup>f</sup> An Account of the Arctic Regions, Edinb. 1820.



ANIMALS.	OBSERVERS.	TEMPERATURE.
<i>Arctomys citillus</i> , xizil,—in summer, . . . . .	Pallas.	103°
Do. . . . . when torpid, . . . . .	Pallas.	80 to 84
Goat, . . . . .	Prévost and Dumas. <sup>a</sup>	103
She goat, three months old, . . . . .	Metcalfe.	107
Mother of the same, old, and in poor condition, . . . . .	Do.	104
Bat, in summer, . . . . .	Prévost and Dumas.	{ 102
Musk, . . . . .	Do.	{ 101 or 102
<i>Marmota bobac</i> ,—Bobac, . . . . .	Do.	{ 101
House mouse, . . . . .	Do.	{ 101 or 102
<i>Arctomys marmota</i> , marmot,—in summer, . . . . .	Do.	{ 43
Do. . . . . when torpid, . . . . .	Do.	{ 100 to 104
Rabbit, . . . . .	Delaroche.	{ 108
Tame young rabbit, two months old, . . . . .	Metcalfe.	{ 100
Polar bear, . . . . .	Capt. Lyon.	{
Dog, . . . . .	Martine. <sup>b</sup>	{
Cat, . . . . .	Do.	{ 100 to 103
Swine, . . . . .	Do.	{
Sheep, . . . . .	Do.	{
Ox, . . . . .	Do.	{
A fine active kitten, two months old, . . . . .	Metcalfe.	105.5
A vigorous cat, nearly full grown, . . . . .	Do.	104
Mother of the kitten, three years old, . . . . .	Do.	103.5
A very old cat, said to be in its 19th year, . . . . .	Do.	102
An active cur dog, three months old, . . . . .	Do.	106
Guinea-pig, . . . . .	Delaroche.	100 to 102
<i>Arctomys gitis</i> , . . . . .	Pallas.	99
Shrew, . . . . .	Do.	98
Young wolf, . . . . .	Do.	96
<i>Fringilla arctica</i> , Arctic finch, . . . . .	Braun. <sup>c</sup>	{ 111
<i>Rubecola</i> , redbreast, . . . . .	Pallas.	{
<i>Fringilla linaria</i> , lesser red poll, . . . . .	Do.	{ 110 or 111
<i>Falco palumbarius</i> , goshawk, . . . . .	Do.	{ 110
<i>Caprimulgus Europæus</i> , European goat-sucker, . . . . .	Do.	{ 109 to 110
<i>Emberiza nivalis</i> , snow-bunting, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Falco lanarius</i> , lanner, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Fringilla carduelis</i> , goldfinch, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Corvus corax</i> , raven, . . . . .	Despretz. <sup>d</sup>	{ 109
<i>Turdus</i> , thrush, (of Ceylon,) . . . . .	J. Davy. <sup>e</sup>	{
<i>Tetrao perdix</i> , partridge, . . . . .	Pallas.	{
<i>Anas clypeata</i> , shoveler, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Tringa pugnax</i> , ruffe, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Scelopax timosa</i> , lesser godwit, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Tetrao tetriz</i> , grouse, . . . . .	Do.	{ 108
<i>Fringilla brumalis</i> , winterfinch, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Loxia pyrrhula</i> , . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Falco nisus</i> , sparrowhawk, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Vultur barbatus</i> , . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Anser pulchricollis</i> , . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Colymbus auritus</i> , dusky grebe, . . . . .	Do.	{ 107
<i>Tringa vanellus</i> , lapwing, (wounded,) . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Tetrao lagopus</i> , ptarmigan, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Fringilla domestica</i> , house-sparrow, . . . . .	Do.	{ 107 to 111
<i>Strix passerina</i> , little owl, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Hematopus ostragalus</i> , sca-pie, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Anas penelope</i> , wigeon, . . . . .	Do.	{ 106
<i>Anas strepera</i> , gadwall, . . . . .	Do.	{
<i>Pelecanus carbo</i> , . . . . .	Do.	{

<sup>a</sup> Bibliothèque Univers. xvii. 294.<sup>b</sup> Med. and Philos. Essays, Lond. 1740; and De Similibus Animalibus et Animal Calore, &c., Lond. 1740.<sup>c</sup> Nov. Comment. Acad. Petropol. xiii. 419.<sup>d</sup> Annales de Chimie, xxvi. 337. Amst. 1824.<sup>e</sup> Edinb. Philos. Journal, Jan. 1826.

ANIMALS.	OBSERVERS.	TEMPERATURE.
<i>Falco ossifragus</i> , sea-eagle, . . . . .	Pallas.	105°
<i>Fulica atra</i> , coot, . . . . .	Do.	
<i>Anas acuta</i> , pintail-duck, . . . . .	Do.	
<i>Falco milvus</i> , kite, (wounded,) . . . . .	Do.	104
<i>Merops apiaster</i> , bee-eater, . . . . .	Do.	
Goose, . . . . .	Martine.	103 to 107
Hen, . . . . .	Do.	
Dove, . . . . .	Do.	
Duck, . . . . .	Do.	
<i>Ardea stellaris</i> , . . . . .	Pallas.	103
<i>Falco albicollis</i> , . . . . .	Do.	
<i>Picus major</i> , . . . . .	Do.	
<i>Cossus ligniperda</i> , . . . . .	Schultze.	89 to 91
Shark, . . . . .	I. Davy.	83
<i>Torpedo Marmorata</i> , . . . . .	Rudolphi.*	74

According to the above table, it will be observed, that the inhabitants of the Arctic regions—whether belonging to the class of mammalia or birds—are among those whose temperature is highest. That of the Arctic fox is, indeed, probably higher than the amount given in the table, being taken after death, when the temperature of the air was as low as  $-14^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit, and when loss of heat may be supposed to have taken place rapidly.

The temperature of the smaller insects it is, of course, impracticable to indicate; but we can arrive at an approximation in those that congregate in masses, as the bee and the ant; for it is impossible to suppose, with Miraldi, that the augmented temperature is dependent upon the motion and friction of the wings and bodies of the busy multitudes. Juch<sup>b</sup> found, that when the temperature of the atmosphere was  $-18^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit, that of a hive of bees was  $44^{\circ}$ : in an ant-hill, the thermometer stood at  $68^{\circ}$  or  $70^{\circ}$ , when the temperature of the air was  $55^{\circ}$ ; and at  $75^{\circ}$ , when that of the air was  $66^{\circ}$ ; and Hausmann<sup>c</sup> and Rengger<sup>d</sup> saw the thermometer rise, when put into narrow glasses in which they had placed scarabæi and other insects.\* Berthold detected the elevation of heat only when several insects were collected together, not in one isolated from the rest. This, Mr. Newport<sup>f</sup> affirms, must have arisen from his having ascertained the temperature only whilst the insect was in a state of rest: for Mr. Newport found, that although during such a state, the temperature of the insect was very nearly or exactly that of the surrounding medium, yet when the insect was excited or disturbed, or in a state of great activity from any cause, the thermometer rose in some instances, even to  $20^{\circ}$  Fahr. above the temperature of the atmosphere,—for instance, to  $91^{\circ}$ , when the heat of the air was  $71^{\circ}$ .

\* Grundriss der Physiol., &c., band. i. 166; Tiedemann's *Traité de Physiologie*, par Jourdan, p. 498, Paris, 1831; P. H. Bérard, art. *Chaleur Animale*, in *Dict. de Méd.* 2de édit. vii. 177, Paris, 1834; and Simon's *Animal Chemistry*, Sydenham edition, p. 143, London, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Ideen zu einer Zoochemie, i. 90.    \* De Animal. Exsanguinum Respiratione, p. 65.

<sup>d</sup> Physiologische Untersuchung, über die Insecten, p. 40, Tübing. 1817.

\* Tiedemann, op. citat., p. 511.

<sup>f</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1837, part ii., p. 259. See Dr. Carpenter, *Principles of General and Comparative Physiology*, p. 372, Lond. 1839; and some experiments proving the same point in Dr. M. Paine's *Medical and Physiological Commentaries*, ii. 76, New York, 1840.

The power of preserving their temperature within certain limits is not, however, possessed exclusively by animals. The heat of a tree, examined by Mr. Hunter,<sup>a</sup> was found to be always several degrees higher than that of the atmosphere, when the temperature of the air was below 56° of Fahr.; but it was always several degrees below it when the weather was warmer. Some plants develop a considerable degree of heat during the period of blooming. This was first noticed by De Lamarck<sup>b</sup> in the *Arum italicum*. In the *Arum cordifolium*, of the Isle of Bourbon, Hubert found, when the temperature of the air was 80°, that of the spathe or sheath was as high as 134°; and Bory de St. Vincent<sup>c</sup> observed a similar elevation, although to a less degree, in the *Arum esculentum*, *esculentum arum* or *Indian kale*.<sup>d</sup>

The animal body is so far influenced by external heat as to rise or fall with it; but the range, as we have already remarked, is limited in the warm-blooded animal,—more extensive in the cold-blooded. Dr. Currie found the temperature of a man plunged into sea-water at 44° sink, in the course of a minute and a half after immersion, from 98° to 87°; and in other experiments, it descended as low as 85°, and even to 83°. It was always found, however, that, in a few minutes, the heat approached its previous elevation; and in no instance could it be depressed lower than 83°, or 15° below the temperature at the commencement of the operation. Similar experiments have been performed on other warm-blooded animals. Hunter found the temperature of a common mouse to be 99°, when that of the atmosphere was 60°: when the same animal was exposed, for an hour, to an atmosphere of 15°, its heat had sunk to 83°; but the depression could be carried no farther. He found, also, that a dormouse,—whose heat in an atmosphere at 64°, was 81½°,—when put into air, at 20°, had its temperature raised in the course of half an hour to 93°; an hour after, the air being at 30°, it was still 93°; another hour after, the air being at 19°, the heat of the pelvis was as low as 83°,—an experiment which strongly proves the great counteracting influence exerted, when animals are exposed to an unusually low temperature. In this experiment, the dormouse had maintained its temperature about 70° higher than that of the surrounding medium, and for the space of two hours and a half. In the hibernating torpid quadruped the reduction of temperature, during their torpidity, is considerable. Jenner<sup>e</sup> found the temperature of a hedgehog, in the cavity of the abdomen, towards the pelvis, to be 95°, and that of the diaphragm 97° of Fahrenheit, in summer, when the thermometer in the shade stood at 78°; whilst in the winter, the temperature of the air being 44°, and the animal torpid, the heat in the pelvis was 45°, and of the diaphragm 48½°. When the temperature of the atmosphere was at 26°, the heat of the

<sup>a</sup> Philos. Transact., 1775 and 1778.

<sup>b</sup> Encyclop. Méthod., iii. 9.

<sup>c</sup> Voyage dans les Quatre Principales Iles des Mers d'Afrique, ii. 66.

<sup>d</sup> Sir J. E. Smith, Introduction to the Study of Botany, 7th edit., by Sir W. J. Hooker, p. 47, Lond. 1833; Tiedemann, p. 492; and Carpenter, op. citat., p. 368.

<sup>e</sup> Philos. Transact. for 1792, p. 199.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. 1778, p. 21.

<sup>g</sup> Hunter on the Animal Economy, p. 99, 2d edit., Lond. 1792, or Owen's edit. in Bell's Select Med. Lib., p. 165, Philad. 1840. See, also, Müller's Handbuch, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 76, Lond. 1838.

animal in the cavity of the abdomen, where an incision was made, was reduced as low as  $30^{\circ}$ ; but—what singularly exhibits the power possessed by the system of regulating its temperature,—when the same animal was exposed to a cold atmosphere of  $26^{\circ}$  for two days, its heat, in the rectum, was raised to  $93^{\circ}$ , or  $67^{\circ}$  above that of the atmosphere. At this time, however, it was lively and active, and the bed on which it lay felt warm. In the cold-blooded animal, we have equal evidence of the generation of heat. Hunter found, that the heat of a viper, placed in a vessel at  $10^{\circ}$ , was reduced, in ten minutes, to  $37^{\circ}$ ; in the next ten minutes, the temperature of the vessel being  $13^{\circ}$ , it fell to  $35^{\circ}$ ; and in the next ten minutes, the vessel being  $20^{\circ}$ , to  $31^{\circ}$ .<sup>a</sup> In frogs, he was able to lower the temperature to  $31^{\circ}$ ; but beyond this point it was not possible to lessen the heat, without destroying the animal.

In the Arctic regions, the animal temperature appears to be steadily maintained notwithstanding the intense cold that prevails; and we have already seen, that the animals of those hyperborean latitudes possess a more elevated temperature than those of more genial climes. In the enterprising voyages, undertaken by the British government for the discovery of a northwest passage, the crews of the ships were frequently exposed to the temperature of  $-40^{\circ}$  or  $-50^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit's scale; and the same thing happened during the disastrous campaign of Russia in 1812, in which so many of the French army perished from cold. The lowest temperature noticed by Captain Parry<sup>b</sup> was  $-55^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit. Captain Franklin,<sup>c</sup> on the northern part of this continent, observed the thermometer on one occasion—Feb. 7, 1827, —as low as  $-58^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit; and M. Von Wrangel<sup>d</sup> states that, in January, on the north coast of Siberia, the cold reaches  $-59^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit; but the greatest observed natural cold was marked by Captain Back<sup>e</sup> in his expedition to the Arctic regions: on the 17th of January, 1834, the thermometer stood at  $-70^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit, or  $102^{\circ}$  below the freezing point!

During the second voyage of Captain Parry,<sup>f</sup> the following temperatures of animals, immediately after death, were taken principally by Captain Lyon.

		Temperature of the	
		Animal.	Atmosphere.
1821.			
Nov. 15.	An Arctic fox	$106\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$-14^{\circ}$
Dec. 3.	Do.	$101\frac{1}{2}$	$-5$
	Do.	100	$-3$
11.	Do.	$101\frac{1}{2}$	$-21$
15.	Do.	$99\frac{1}{2}$	$-15$
17.	Do.	98	$-10$
19.	Do.	$99\frac{1}{2}$	$-14$

<sup>a</sup> Op. citat.

<sup>b</sup> Journal of a Voyage for the Discovery of a Northwest Passage, American edition, p. 130, Philadelphia, 1821.

<sup>c</sup> Narrative of a Second Expedition to the Shores of the Polar Sea, &c., American edition, p. 245, Philadelphia, 1835.

<sup>d</sup> Reise des Kaiserlich. Russischen Flotten, Lieutenants Ferdinand Von Wrangel, langs der Nordküste von Siberien, u. s. w., Berlin, 1839, translated in Harper's Family Library.

<sup>e</sup> Narrative of the Arctic Land Expedition to the mouth of the Great Fish River, &c., in the years 1833, 1834, and 1835, London, 1836.

<sup>f</sup> Op. citat., p. 157.

						Temperature of the	
						Animal.	Atmosphere.
1822.							
Jan. 3.	Do.	.	.	.	.	104½°	— 23°
9.	A white hare	.	.	.	.	101	— 21
10.	An Arctic fox	.	.	.	.	100	— 15
17.	Do.	.	.	.	.	106	— 32
24.	Do.	.	.	.	.	103	— 27
	Do.	.	.	.	.	103	— 27
	Do.	.	.	.	.	102	— 25
27.	Do.	.	.	.	.	101	— 32
Feb. 2.	A wolf	.	.	.	.	105	— 27

These animals must, therefore, have to maintain a temperature at least 100° higher than that of the atmosphere throughout the whole of winter; and it would appear as if the counteracting energy becomes proportionately greater as the temperature is more depressed. It is, however, a part of their nature to be constantly eliciting this unusual quantity of caloric, and therefore they do not suffer. Where animals, not so accustomed, are placed in an unusually cold medium, the efforts of the system rapidly exhaust the nervous energy; and when this becomes so far depressed as to interfere materially with the function of calorification, which we shall find is to a certain extent under the nervous influence, the temperature sinks, and the individual dies lethargic—or, as if struck with apoplexy. The ship *Endeavour*, being on the coast of Terra del Fuego, on the 21st of December, 1769, Messrs. Banks, Solander, and others were desirous of making a botanical excursion upon the hills on the coast, which did not appear to be far distant. The party, consisting of eleven persons, were overtaken by night on the hills, during extreme cold. Dr. Solander, who had crossed the mountains which divide Sweden from Norway, knowing the almost irresistible desire for sleep produced by exposure to great cold, more especially when united with fatigue, enjoined his companions to keep moving, whatever pains it might cost them, and whatever might be the relief promised by an indulgence in rest. "Whoever sits down," said he, "will sleep, and whoever sleeps will wake no more." Thus admonished, they set forward, but whilst still upon the bare rock, and before they had got among the bushes, the cold suddenly became so severe as to produce the effects that had been dreaded. Dr. Solander himself was the first who found the desire irresistible, and insisted on being suffered to lie down. Mr. Banks, (afterwards Sir Joseph,) entreated and remonstrated in vain. The doctor lay down upon the ground, although it was covered with snow; and it was with the greatest difficulty that his friend could keep him from sleeping. Richmond, one of the black servants, began to linger and to suffer from the cold, in the same manner as Dr. Solander. Mr. Banks, therefore, sent five of the company forward to get a fire ready at the first convenient place they came to; and himself, with four others, remained with the Doctor and Richmond, whom, partly by persuasion and partly by force, they carried forward; but when they had got through the birch and swamp, they both declared they could go no farther. Mr. Banks had again recourse to entreaty and expostulation, but without effect. When Richmond

was told, that if he did not go on, he would, in a short time, be frozen to death, he answered, that he desired nothing but to lie down and die. Dr. Solander was not so obstinate, but was willing to go on, if they would first allow him to take some sleep, although he had before observed, that to sleep was to perish. Mr. Banks and the rest of the party found it impossible to carry them, and they were consequently suffered to sit down, being partly supported by the bushes, and, in a few minutes, they fell into a profound sleep. Soon after, some of the people, who had been sent forward, returned with the welcome intelligence, that a fire had been kindled about a quarter of a mile farther on the way. Mr. Banks then endeavoured to rouse Dr. Solander, and happily succeeded, but, although he had not slept five minutes, he had almost lost the use of his limbs, and the soft parts were so shrunk, that his shoes fell from his feet. He consented to go forward with such assistance as could be given him, but no attempts to relieve Richmond were successful. He, with another black left with him, died. Several others began to lose their sensibility, having been exposed to the cold near an hour and a half, but the fire recovered them.\*

The preceding history is interesting in another point of view besides the one for which it was more especially cited. Both the individuals, who perished, were blacks, and it has been a common observation, that they bear exposure to great heat with more impunity, and suffer more from intense cold, than the white variety of the species. As regards inorganic bodies, it has been satisfactorily shown, that the phenomena of the radiation of caloric are connected with the nature of the radiating surface; and that those surfaces, which radiate most, possess, in the highest degree, the absorbing power; in other words, bodies that have their temperatures most readily raised by radiant heat are those that are most easily cooled by their own radiation. In the experiments of Professor Leslie<sup>b</sup> it was found, that a clean metallic surface produced an effect upon the thermometer equal to 12; but when covered with a thin coat of glue its radiating power was so far increased as to produce an effect equal to 80; and, on covering it with lampblack, it became equal to 100. We can thus understand why, in the negro, there should be a greater expense of caloric than in the white, owing to the greater radiation; not because as much caloric may not have been elicited as in the white. In the same manner we can understand that, owing to the greater absorbing power of his skin, he may suffer less from excessive heat than the white; and this is perhaps the great use of the dark rete mucosum. To ascertain, whether such be the fact, the following experiments were instituted by Sir Everard Home.<sup>c</sup> He exposed the back of his hand to the sun at twelve o'clock, with a thermometer attached to it, another thermometer being placed upon a table with the same exposure. The temperature, indicated by that on his hand,

\* See, on the effects of Cold, Sir. H. Hallford, in *Lond. Med. Gazette*, for March 11, 1837, p. 902.

<sup>b</sup> On Heat, Edinb. 1804; and Dr. Stark, in *Philosoph. Transact.*, part ii. for 1833.

<sup>c</sup> *Lect. on Comp. Anat.* iii. 217, London, 1823.

was  $90^{\circ}$ ; by the other,  $102^{\circ}$ . In forty-five minutes, blisters arose, and coagulable lymph was thrown out. The pain was very severe. In a second experiment, he exposed his face, eyelids, and the back of his hand to water heated to  $120^{\circ}$ ; in a few minutes they became painful; and, when the heat was farther increased, he was unable to bear it; but no blisters were produced. In a third experiment, he exposed the backs of both hands, with a thermometer upon each, to the sun's rays. The one hand was uncovered; the other had a covering of black cloth, under which the ball of the thermometer was placed. After ten minutes, the degree of heat of each thermometer was marked, and the appearance of the skin examined. This was repeated at three different times. The first time, the thermometer under the cloth stood at  $91^{\circ}$ , the other thermometer at  $85^{\circ}$ ; the second time, they indicated respectively  $94^{\circ}$  and  $91^{\circ}$ ; and the third time,  $106^{\circ}$  and  $98^{\circ}$ . In every one of these trials, the skin, that was uncovered, was scorched, whilst the other had not suffered in the slightest degree. From all his experiments, Sir Everard concludes, that the power of the sun's rays to scorch the skin of animals is destroyed, when applied to a black surface; although the absolute heat, in consequence of the absorption of the rays, is greater.

When cold is applied to particular parts of the body, the heat of those parts sinks lower than the minimum of depressed temperature. Although Hunter was unable to heat the urethra one degree above the maximum of elevated temperature of the body, he succeeded in cooling it  $29^{\circ}$  lower than the minimum of depressed temperature, or to  $58^{\circ}$ . He cooled down the ears of rabbits until they froze; and when thawed, they recovered their natural heat and circulation. The same experiment was performed on the comb and wattles of a cock. Resuscitation was, however, in no instance practicable where the whole body had been frozen.\* The same observer found, that the power of generating heat, when exposed to a cooling influence, was possessed even by the egg. An egg, which had been frozen and thawed, was put into a cold mixture along with one newly laid. The latter was seven minutes and a half longer in freezing than the other. In another experiment, a fresh-laid egg, and one which had been frozen and thawed, were put into a cold mixture at  $15^{\circ}$ ; the thawed one soon rose to  $32^{\circ}$ , and began to swell and congeal; the fresh one sank to  $29\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , and in twenty-five minutes after the dead one, it rose to  $32^{\circ}$ , and began to swell and freeze. All these facts prove, that when the living body is exposed to a lower temperature than usual, a counteracting power of calorification exists; but that, in the human species, such exposure to cold is incapable of depressing the temperature of the system lower than about  $15^{\circ}$  beneath the natural standard. In fish, the vital principle can survive the action even of frost. Captain Franklin found, that those which they caught in Winter Lake, froze as they were taken out of the net; but if, in this completely frozen state, they were thawed before the fire, they recovered their animation. This was especially the case with a carp, which reco-

\* Sir E. Home's Lect. &c., iii. 438.

vered so far as to leap about with some vigour after it had been frozen for thirty-six hours.<sup>a</sup>

On the other hand, when the living body is exposed to a temperature greatly above the natural standard, an action of refrigeration is exerted; so that the animal heat cannot rise beyond a certain number of degrees;—to a much smaller extent in fact than it is capable of being depressed by the opposite influence. Boerhaave<sup>b</sup> maintained the strange opinion, that no warm-blooded animal could exist in a temperature higher than that of its own body. In some parts of Virginia, there are days in every summer, in which the thermometer reaches 98° of Fahrenheit; and in other parts of this country it is occasionally much higher. The meteorological registers show it to be at times as high as 108° at Council Bluffs, in Missouri; at 104° in New York; and at 100° in Michigan; whilst in most of the states, on some days of summer, it reaches 96° or 98°. At Sierra Leone, Messrs. Watt and Winterbottom,<sup>d</sup> saw it frequently at 100°, and even as high as 102° and 103°, at some distance from the coast. Adamson saw it at Senegal as high as 108½°. Brydone affirms, that when the sirocco blows in Sicily the heat rises to 112°. Dr. Chalmers observed a heat of 115° in South Carolina; Humboldt<sup>e</sup> of 110° to 115° in the Llanos or Plains near the Orinoco; and Captain Tuckey asserts, that on the Red Sea he never observed the thermometer at midnight under 94°; at sunrise under 104°; or at midday under 112°. In British India it is asserted to have been seen as high as 130°.<sup>f</sup>

So long ago as 1758, Governor Ellis<sup>g</sup> of Georgia had noticed how little the heat of the body is influenced by the external atmosphere. "I have frequently," he remarks, "walked an hundred yards under an umbrella with a thermometer suspended from it by a thread, to the height of my nostrils, when the mercury has rose to 105°, which is prodigious. At the same time I have confined this instrument close to the hottest part of my body, and have been astonished to observe, that it has subsided several degrees. Indeed I never could raise the mercury above 97° with the heat of my body." Two years after the date of this communication, the power of resisting a much higher atmospheric temperature was discovered by accident. MM. Duhamel and Tillet<sup>h</sup> in some experiments for destroying an insect, that infested

<sup>a</sup> See, also, Dr. Carpenter, art. Life, in *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.* Sept. 1840.

<sup>b</sup> "Observatio docet nullum animal quod pulmones habet, posse in aere vivere, cujus eadem est temperies cum suo sanguine." *Element. Chemiæ*, i. 275, *Lug. Bat.* 1732; and Haller, *Element. Physiologiæ*, tom. ii.

<sup>c</sup> *Meteorological Register*, for the years 1822, 1823, 1824, and 1825, from observations made by the surgeons at the military posts of the United States. See, also, a similar register for the years 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, and 1830. *Philad.* 1840.

<sup>d</sup> *Account of the Native Africans*, vol. i., p. 32 and 33.

<sup>e</sup> *Lawrence's Lectures on Physiology, &c.*, p. 306, London, 1819.

<sup>f</sup> *Account of the Weather and Diseases of South Carolina*, London, 1776.

<sup>g</sup> *Tableau Physique des Regions Equatoriales*.

<sup>h</sup> Prof. Jameson, in *British India*, Amer. edit. iii. 170, New York, 1832. For an account of the highest temperature, observed in different climates, see the author's "Human Health," *Philad.* 1844; art. Atmosphere, by the author, in *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, Philadelphia, 1836; *Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes*, 1825; and *Elémens de Physique*, par Pouillet, iv. 637, 2de édit., Paris, 1832.

<sup>i</sup> *Philosophical Transactions*, 1758, p. 755.

<sup>j</sup> *Mémoir. de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris*, 1762, p. 186.



the grain of the neighbourhood,—having occasion to use a large public oven, on the same day in which bread had been baked in it, were desirous of ascertaining its temperature. This they endeavoured to accomplish by introducing a thermometer into the oven at the end of a shovel. On being withdrawn, the thermometer indicated a degree of heat considerably above that of boiling water; but M. Tillet, feeling satisfied that the thermometer had fallen several degrees in approaching the mouth of the oven, and seeming to be at a loss how to rectify the error, a girl,—one of the servants of the baker, and an attendant on the oven,—offered to enter and mark with a pencil the height at which the thermometer stood within the oven. The girl smiled at M. Tillet's hesitation at her proposition; entered the oven, and noted the temperature to be  $260^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit. M. Tillet, anxious for her safety, called upon her to come out; but she assured him she felt no inconvenience from her situation, and remained ten minutes longer, when the thermometer had risen to  $280^{\circ}$  and upwards. She then came out of the oven, with her face considerably flushed, but her respiration by no means quick or laborious.

These facts excited considerable interest; but no farther experiments appear to have been instituted, until, in the year 1774, Dr. Geo. Fordyce, and Sir Charles Blagden<sup>a</sup> made their celebrated trials with heated air. The rooms, in which these were made, were heated by flues in the floor. Having taken off his coat, waistcoat, and shirt, and being provided with wooden shoes, tied on with list, Dr. Fordyce went into one of the rooms, as soon as the thermometer indicated a degree of heat above that of boiling water. The first impression of this heated air upon his body was exceedingly disagreeable; but in a few minutes all uneasiness was removed by copious perspiration. At the end of twelve minutes he left the room very much fatigued, but not otherwise disordered. The thermometer had risen to  $220^{\circ}$ . In other experiments, it was found, that a heat even of  $260^{\circ}$  could be borne with tolerable ease. At this temperature, every piece of metal was intolerably hot; small quantities of water, in metallic vessels, quickly boiled; and streams of moisture poured down over the whole surface of his body. That this was merely the vapour of the room, condensed by the cooler skin, was proved by the fact, that when a Florence flask, filled with water of the same temperature as the body, was placed in the room, the vapour condensed in like manner upon its surface, and ran down in streams. Whenever the thermometer was breathed upon, the mercury sank several degrees. Every expiration—especially if made with any degree of violence—communicated a pleasant impression of coolness to the nostrils, scorched immediately before by the hot air rushing against them when they inspired. In the same manner, their comparatively cool breath cooled their fingers, whenever it reached them. “To prove,” says Sir Charles Blagden, “that there was no fallacy in the degree of heat shown by the thermometer, but that the air which we breathed was capable of producing all the well-known effects of such an heat on inanimate matter, we put some eggs and beef-steak upon a tin frame, placed

<sup>a</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1775, p. 111.

near the standard thermometer, and farther distant from the cockle than from the wall of the room. In about twenty minutes the eggs were taken out roasted quite hard; and in forty-seven minutes, the steak was not only dressed, but almost dry. Another beef-steak was rather overdone in thirty-three minutes. In the evening, when the heat was still greater, we laid a third beef-steak in the same place; and as it had now been observed, that the effect of the heated air was much increased by putting it in motion, we blew upon the steak with a pair of bellows, which produced a visible change on its surface, and seemed to hasten the dressing: the greatest part of it was found pretty well done in thirteen minutes." In all these experiments, and similar ones were made in the following year, by Dobson,<sup>a</sup> of Liverpool, the heat of the body, in air of a high temperature, speedily reached 100°; but exposure to 212°, and more, did not carry it higher. These results are not, however, exactly in accordance with those of MM. Berger and Delaroche,<sup>b</sup> deduced from experiments performed in 1806. Having exposed themselves, for some time, to a stove,—the temperature of which was 39° of Réaumur, or 120° of Fahrenheit,—their temperature was raised 3° of Réaumur, or 6½° of Fahrenheit; and M. Delaroche found, that his rose to 4° of Réaumur, or 9° of Fahrenheit, when he had remained sixteen minutes in a stove heated to 176° of Fahrenheit. According to Sir David Brewster,<sup>c</sup>—the distinguished sculptor, Chantry, exposed himself to a temperature yet higher. The furnace which he employs for drying his moulds, is about 14 feet long, 12 feet high, and 12 feet broad. When raised to its highest temperature, with the doors closed, the thermometer stands at 350°, and the iron floor is *red-hot*. The workmen often enter it at a temperature of 340°, walking over the iron floor with wooden clogs, which are, of course, charred on the surface. On one occasion, Mr. Chantry, accompanied by five or six of his friends, entered the furnace, and after remaining two minutes, they brought out a thermometer, which stood at 320°. Some of the party experienced sharp pains in the tips of their ears, and in the septum of the nose, whilst others felt a pain in the eyes. In some experiments of Chabert, who exhibited his powers as a "Fire King," in this country as well as in Europe, he is said to have entered an oven with impunity, the heat of which was from 400° to 600° of Fahrenheit. Experiments have shown, that the same power of resisting excessive heat is possessed by other animals. Drs. Fordyce and Blagden shut up a dog in a room, the temperature of which was between 220° and 236°, for half an hour; at the end of this time a thermometer was applied between the thigh and flank of the animal; and in about a minute the mercury sank to 110°; but the real heat of the body was certainly less than this, as the ball of the thermometer could not be kept a sufficient time in proper contact; and the hair, which felt sensibly hotter than the bare skin, could not be prevented from touching the instrument. The temperature of this animal, in the natural state, is 101°.

<sup>a</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1775, p. 463.

<sup>b</sup> *Expér. sur les Effets qu'une forte Chaleur produit sur l'Economie*, Paris, 1805; and *Journal de Physique*, lxxiii. 207, lxxi. 289, and lxxvii. 1.

<sup>c</sup> *Letters on Natural Magic*, p. 261, Amer. edit., New York, 1832.

We find in the case of aquatic animals, astonishing cases of adaptation to the medium in which they live. Although man is capable of breathing air, heated to above the boiling point of water with impunity, we have seen, that he cannot bear the contact of water much below that temperature. Yet we find certain of the lower animals—as fishes—living in water at a temperature which would be entirely sufficient to boil them if dead. In the thermal springs of Bahia, in Brazil, many small fishes are seen swimming in a rivulet, which raises the thermometer to  $88^{\circ}$ , when the temperature of the air is only  $77\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . Sonnerat, again, found fishes existing in a hot spring at the Manillas, at  $158^{\circ}$  Fah.; and MM. Humboldt and Bonpland, in travelling through the province of Quito, in South America, perceived them thrown up alive, and apparently in health, from the bottom of a volcano, in the course of its explosions, along with water and heated vapour, which raised the thermometer to  $210^{\circ}$ , or only two degrees short of the boiling point.<sup>a</sup> Dr. Reeve found living larvæ in a spring, whose temperature was  $208^{\circ}$ ; Lord Bute saw conservæ and beetles in the boiling springs of Albano, which died when plunged into cold water; and Dr. Elliotson knew a gentleman, who boiled some honeycomb, two years old, and, after extracting all the sweet matter, threw the refuse into a stable, which was soon filled with bees.<sup>b</sup>

When the heating influence is applied to a part of the body only, as to the urethra, the temperature of the part, it has been affirmed, is not increased beyond the degree to which the whole body may be raised.

From all these facts, then, we may conclude, that when the body is exposed to a temperature greatly above the ordinary standard of the animal, a frigorific influence is exerted; but this is effected at a great expense of the vital energy; and hence is followed by considerable exhaustion, if the effort be prolonged. In the cold-blooded animal, the power of resisting heat is not great; so that it expires in water not hotter than the human blood occasionally is. Dr. Edwards found that a frog, which can live eight hours in water at  $32^{\circ}$ , is destroyed in a few seconds in water at  $105^{\circ}$ : this appears to be the highest temperature that cold-blooded animals can bear. Warm-blooded animals, when exposed to a high temperature, have their temperature increased to a certain extent; but whenever it passes this point, they perish. M. James<sup>c</sup> took two rabbits, whose normal temperature was about  $102\cdot2^{\circ}$ , and placed them in two stoves, one at  $212^{\circ}$ , the other at  $140^{\circ}$ . The first died sooner than the second; but the temperature of each at the moment of death was the same,  $111\cdot2^{\circ}$ . The same experiment, over and over again repeated, showed, that whatever might be the degree at which the heat was applied, the animal died when an increase of nine degrees was attained. In birds, whose normal temperature was  $111\cdot2^{\circ}$ , the same at which the rabbits

<sup>a</sup> Animal Physiology, Library of Useful Knowledge, p. 3.

<sup>b</sup> Physiology, p. 247, Lond. 1840; also, Hodgkin and Fisher's Appendix to their translation of Edwards, *Sur l'Influence des Agens Physiques, &c.*, p. 467; and Carpenter, *Principles of General and Comparative Physiology*, p. 154, Lond. 1839.

<sup>c</sup> *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, 27 Avril, 1844.

died, death ensued on the same increase of nine degrees, or when their blood reached 120·2°.

Observation has shown, that although the average temperature of an animal is such as we have stated in the table, particular circumstances may give occasion to some fluctuation. A slight difference exists, according to sex, temperament, idiosyncrasy, &c. MM. Edwards and Gentil found the temperature of a young female half a degree less than that of two boys of the same age. Edwards<sup>a</sup> tried the temperature of twenty sexagenarians, thirty-seven septuagenarians, fifteen octogenarians, and five centenarians, at the large establishment of Bicêtre, and he observed a slight difference in each class. Dr. John Davy<sup>b</sup> found, that the temperature of a lamb was a degree higher than that of its mother; and in five new-born children, the heat was about half a degree higher than that of the mother, and it rose half a degree higher in the first twelve hours after birth. Very recently, he has examined the temperature under the tongue of the aged.<sup>c</sup> In eight old men and women, all, with one exception, between eighty-seven and ninety-five years of age, the temperature was 98°, or 98·5°; therefore little, if at all, below the average of adult persons in like circumstances. Two observations, however, showed, that on exposure to external cold, the temperature was more reduced than in young persons. In one case it fell to 95°; in the other to 96·5°. A few observations were also made on persons working in rooms at a temperature of 92°: in one case, the temperature was 100°, in another 100·5°; and in a third, the external temperature being 73°, it was 99°. The same slight variations of the temperature of superficial parts in accordance with changes of external temperature were shown by repeated observations on a healthy man in the different seasons, at Constantinople. By moderate exercise the temperature was raised—but not above the general average—on the surface of the extremities, and was not affected in the internal parts.<sup>d</sup>

Dr. G. C. Holland<sup>e</sup> found that the mean temperature of forty infants exceeded that of the same number of adults by 1½°: twelve of the children possessed a temperature of 100° to 103¼°. Edwards, on the other hand, found, that, in the warm-blooded animal, the faculty of producing heat is less, the nearer to birth; and that, in many cases, as soon as the young dropped from the mother, the temperature fell to within a degree or two of that of the circumambient air; and he moreover affirms, that the faculty of producing heat is at its minimum at birth, and that it increases successively to the adult age. His trials on children, at the large *Hôpital des Enfants* of Paris, and on the aged at Bicêtre, showed, that the temperature of infants, one or two days old, was from 93° to 95° of Fahrenheit; of the sexagenarian from 95° to 97°; of the octogenarian, 94° or 95°; and that, as a general rule, it varied according to the age. In his experiments connected with this subject, he discovered a striking analogy between

<sup>a</sup> De l'Influence des Âges, &c., p. 436, Paris, 1826.

<sup>b</sup> Philosoph. Transact., p. 602, for 1814. <sup>c</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1844, p. 57.

<sup>d</sup> Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1845, p. 267.

<sup>e</sup> An Inquiry into the Laws of Life, &c., Edinb. 1829; and Despretz, in Edinb. Journal of Science, &c., iv. 185.

warm-blooded animals in general. Some of these are born with the eyes closed; others with them open: the former, until the eyes are opened, he found to resemble the cold-blooded animal; the latter—or those born with the eyes open—the warm-blooded. Thus, he remarks, the state of the eyes, although having no immediate connexion with the production of heat, may yet coincide with an internal structure influencing that function, and it certainly furnishes signs, which indicate a remarkable change in this respect; for, at the period of the opening of their eyes, all young mammalia have nearly the same temperature as adults. Now, in accordance with analogy, a newborn infant, at the full period, having its eyes open, should have the power of maintaining a pretty uniform temperature during the warm seasons; but, if birth should take place at the fifth or sixth month, the case is altered; the pupil is generally covered with the *membrana pupillaris*, which places the young being in a condition similar to that of closure of the eyelids in animals. Analogy, then, would induce us to conclude, that, in such an infant, the power of producing heat should be inconsiderable, and observation confirms the conclusion; although we obviously have not the same facilities, as in the case of animals, of exposing the infant to a depressed temperature. The temperature of a seven months' child, though well swathed, and near a good fire, was, within two or three hours after birth, no more than 89·6° Fahrenheit. Before the period at which this infant was born, the *membrana pupillaris* disappears; and it is probable, as Dr. Edwards has suggested, if it had been born prior to the disappearance of the membrane, its power of producing heat might have been so feeble, that it would scarcely have differed from that of mammalia born with their eyes closed.<sup>a</sup>

An extensive series of experiments has been instituted by M. Roger,<sup>b</sup> in regard to the temperature of children in health and in various diseases. In nine examinations of infants from one to twenty minutes after birth, the temperature observed in the axilla was from 99·95° to 95·45°. Immediately after birth it was at the highest, but it quickly fell to near the lowest point stated above. By the next day, however, it was completely or nearly what it was before. The rapidity of the pulse and of respiration appeared to have no certain relation to the temperature. In thirty-three infants, from one to seven days old, the most frequent temperature was 98·6°; the average 98·75°: the maximum—one case only—was 102·2°; the minimum—also one case—96·8°. All the infants were healthy. The frequency of respiration had no evident or constant relation to the temperature. A few of the infants were of a weakly habit: their average temperature was 97·7°: the others were strong, and their average temperature was 99·534°. The age of the infant, at this period, had no influence on its temperature; nor had its sex, state of sleeping or waking, nor the period after suckling.

<sup>a</sup> Op. cit., and Analytical Review of Hodgkin and Fisher's translation, by the author of this work, in Amer. Journ. of Medical Sciences, p. 150, for May, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Archiv. Général. de Médecine, Juillet, Août, 1844, cited by Mr. Paget, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1845, p. 266.

In twenty-four children, chiefly boys, from four months to fourteen years old, the most frequent temperature was above  $98.6^{\circ}$ ; the average was  $98.978^{\circ}$ ; the minimum  $98.15^{\circ}$ ; the maximum  $99.95^{\circ}$ . The average temperature of those six years old or under was  $98.798^{\circ}$ ; of those above six years old,  $99.158^{\circ}$ . The average number of pulsations in the minute was, in those under six years of age, 102; in those above that age, 77; yet the temperature of the latter was higher than that of the former, or of younger infants. There was no evident relation between the temperature and the frequency of respiration; nor, in a few examinations, was the temperature affected in a regular way, by active exercise for a short time, or by the stage of digestion.

The state of the system as to health or disease, also influences the evolution of heat. Dr. Francis Home,<sup>a</sup> of Edinburgh, took the heat of various patients at different periods of their indispositions. He found that of two persons, labouring under the cold stage of an intermittent, to be  $104^{\circ}$ ; whilst, during the sweat and afterwards, it fell to  $101^{\circ}$ , and to  $99^{\circ}$ . The highest degree, which he noticed in fever, was  $107^{\circ}$ .<sup>b</sup> We have often witnessed the thermometer at  $106^{\circ}$  in scarlatina and in typhus, but it probably rarely exceeds this, although it is stated to have been seen as high as  $112^{\circ}$ ,<sup>c</sup> and this is the point designated as "fever heat," on Fahrenheit's scale. M. Edwards alludes to a case of tetanus, in a child, the particulars of which were communicated to him by M. Prévost, of Geneva, in which the temperature rose to  $110.75^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit.<sup>d</sup> Hunter<sup>e</sup> found the interior of a hydrocele, on the day of operation, to raise the mercury to  $92^{\circ}$ ; on the following day, when inflammation had commenced, it rose to  $99^{\circ}$ . The fluid obtained from the abdomen of an individual, tapped for the seventh time for dropsy of the lower belly, indicated a temperature of  $101^{\circ}$ . Twelve days thereafter, when the operation was repeated for the eighth time, the temperature was  $104^{\circ}$ . Dr. Granville<sup>f</sup> has asserted that the temperature of the uterine system sometimes rises as high as  $120^{\circ}$ —the elevation seeming to bear some ratio to the degree of action in the organ. We have frequently been struck with the seemingly elevated temperature of the vagina under these circumstances, but cannot help suspecting some inaccuracy in the observations of Dr. Granville, the temperature he indicates being so much higher than has ever been noticed in any condition of the system. Under this feeling, several experiments were made, at the author's request, by Dr. Barnes,<sup>g</sup> at the time one of the resident physicians of the Philadelphia Hospital, which exhibit only a slight difference between the temperature of the vagina and that of the uterus during parturition. In two cases, the temperature of the labia was  $100^{\circ}$ , and in a third  $105^{\circ}$ ; whilst that of the uterus was  $100^{\circ}$ ,  $102^{\circ}$ , and  $106^{\circ}$ , respectively. Dr. James Currie had himself bled; and during the operation, the

<sup>a</sup> Medical Facts and Experim., Lond. 1759.

<sup>b</sup> Currie's Medical Reports, Liverpool, 1798, and Philad. 1808.

<sup>c</sup> G. T. Morgan's First Principles of Surgery, p. 80, Lond. 1837.

<sup>d</sup> Edwards, *op. citat.*, p. 490.

<sup>e</sup> On the Blood, &c., p. 296, Lond. 1794.

<sup>f</sup> Philos. Transact., p. 262, for 1825; and Sir E. Home, in Lect. on Comp. Anat., v. 201, Lond. 1828.

<sup>g</sup> Dunglison's American Medical Intelligencer, Feb. 15, 1839, p. 346.

mercury of a thermometer, which he held in his hand, sank, at first slowly, and afterwards rapidly, nearly  $10^{\circ}$ ; and when he fainted, the assistant found that it had sunk  $8^{\circ}$  farther.

In diseased states M. Roger<sup>a</sup> found, that the temperature of the skin may descend in children to  $74.3^{\circ}$ , and may rise as high as  $108.5^{\circ}$ . Its range is, consequently, greater than in adults, in whom M. Andral found it not to vary in different diseases more than from  $95^{\circ}$  to  $107.6^{\circ}$ . His estimates are, however, much too limited; as in Asiatic cholera the temperature has been marked as low as  $67^{\circ}$ ,<sup>b</sup> whilst in disease it has certainly risen as high as nearly  $111^{\circ}$ , Fahrenheit.

MM. Edwards and Gentil assert, that they have likewise observed diurnal variations in the temperature of individuals, and these produced, apparently, by the particular succession in the exercise of the different organs; as where intellectual meditation was followed by digestion. These variations, they affirm, frequently amounted to two or three degrees, between morning and evening.<sup>c</sup>

M. Chevallier<sup>d</sup> has investigated the temperature of the urine on issuing from the bladder. This he found was affected by rest, fatigue, change of regimen, remaining in bed, &c. The lowest temperature, which was observed on rising in the morning, was about  $92^{\circ}$ ; the highest, after dinner, and when fatigued,  $99^{\circ}$ . In the case of another person, the temperature of the urine was never lower than  $101^{\circ}$ , and occasionally upwards of  $102^{\circ}$ , when he was fatigued.

Such are the prominent facts connected with the subject of animal heat. It is obvious, that it is altogether disengaged by an action of the system, which enables it to counteract, within certain limits, the extremes of atmospheric heat and cold. The animal body, like all other substances, is subjected to the laws regarding the equilibrium, the conduction, and the radiation of caloric; but, by virtue of the important function we are now considering, its own temperature is neither elevated nor depressed by those influences to any great amount. Into the seat and nature of this mysterious process, and the various ingenious theories that have been indulged, we shall now inquire.

Physiologists have been by no means agreed, regarding the organs or apparatus of calorification. Some, indeed, have affirmed that there is not, strictly speaking, any such apparatus; and that animal heat is a result of all the other vital operations. Amongst those, too, who admit the existence of such an apparatus, a difference of sentiment prevails; some thinking that it is *local*, or effected in a particular part of the body; others, that it is *general*, or disseminated through the whole economy. Under the name *caloricité*, Chaussier admits a primary vital property, by virtue of which living beings disengage the caloric on which their proper temperature is dependent, in the same manner as they accomplish their other vital operations, by other vital properties; and in support of this doctrine, he adduces the circum-

<sup>a</sup> Op. cit.

<sup>b</sup> The author's Practice of Medicine, 2d edit., i. 136, Philad., 1844.

<sup>c</sup> See Purkinje, in art. *Calor Animalis*, in Encyclop. Wörterbuch der Medicin. Wissenschaft. Band. vi. s. 530, Berlin, 1831.

<sup>d</sup> Essai sur la Dissolution de la Gravelle, &c., p. 120, Paris, 1837.

stance, that each living body has its own proper temperature;—which is coexistent only with the living state; is common to every living part; ceases at death; and augments by every cause that excites the vital activity. It has been properly objected, however, to this view, that the same arguments would apply equally to many other vital operations,—and that it would be obviously improper to admit, for each of these functions, a special vital principle. The notion has not experienced favour from the physiologist, and is, we believe, confined to the individual from whom it emanated.<sup>a</sup>

Amongst those who admit that calorification is a local action, some have believed, that the caloric is disengaged in a particular organ, whence it is distributed to every part of the body; whilst others conceive, that every part disengages its own caloric and has its special temperature.

So striking a phenomenon as animal temperature could not fail to attract early attention; and accordingly, we find amongst the ancients various speculations on the subject. The most prevalent was,—that its seat is in the heart; that the heat is communicated to the blood in that viscus, and is afterwards sent to every part of the system; and that the great use of respiration is to cool the heart; but this hypothesis is liable to all the objections which apply to the notion of any organ of the body acting as a furnace,—that such organ ought to be calcined; and it has the additional objection, applicable to all speculations regarding the ebullition and effervescence of the blood as a cause of heat, that it is purely conjectural, without the slightest fact or argument in its favour. It was not, indeed, until the chemical doctrines prevailed, that any thing like argument was adduced in support of the local disengagement of heat: the opinions of physiologists then settled almost universally upon the lungs; and this, chiefly, in consequence of the observation, that animals, which do not breathe, have a temperature but little superior to the medium in which they live; whilst man and animals that breathe have a temperature considerably higher than the medium heat of the climate in which they exist, and one which is but little affected by changes in the thermal condition of that medium; and, moreover, that birds, which breathe, in proportion, a greater quantity of air than man, have a still higher temperature than he. Mayow,<sup>b</sup> whose theory of animal heat was, in other respects, sufficiently unmeaning, affirmed, that the effect of respiration is not to cool the blood, as had been previously maintained, but to generate heat, which it did by an operation analogous to combustion. It was not, however, until the promulgation of Dr. Black's doctrine of latent heat, that any plausible explanation of the phenomenon appeared.<sup>c</sup> According to that distinguished philosopher, a part of the latent heat of the inspired air becomes sensible; consequently, the temperature of the lungs, and of the blood passing through them, must be elevated; and, as the blood is distributed to the whole system, it communicates its heat to the parts as it proceeds on its

<sup>a</sup> Art. Caloricité, by Coutanceau, in *Dict. de Médecine*, tom. iv., Paris, 1822; and Adelon's *Physiologie de l'Homme*, tom. iii. 407, 2de édit., Paris, 1829.

<sup>b</sup> *Tract. quinque*, Oxon., 1674. <sup>c</sup> *Bostock's Physiology*, 3d edit., p. 440, Lond., 1836.



course. But this view was liable to an obvious objection, which was, indeed, fatal to it, and so Black himself appears to have thought, from his silence on the subject. If the whole of the caloric were disengaged in the lungs, as in a furnace, and were distributed through the blood-vessels, as heated air is transmitted along conducting pipes, the temperature of the lungs ought to be much greater than that of the parts more distant from the heart;—so great, indeed, as to consume that important organ in a short space of time.

The doctrine, maintained by Lavoisier<sup>a</sup> and Séguin, was;—that the oxygen of the inspired air combines with the carbon and hydrogen of the venous blood, and produces combustion. The caloric given off is then taken up by the blood-vessels, and is distributed over the body. The arguments, which they adduced in favour of this view, were:—the great resemblance between respiration and combustion, so that if the latter gives off heat, the former ought to do so likewise;—the fact that arterial blood is somewhat warmer than venous;—and certain experiments of Lavoisier and Laplace,<sup>b</sup> which consisted in placing animals in the calorimeter, and comparing the quantity of ice which they melted, and, consequently, the quantity of heat, which they gave off, with the quantity of carbonic acid produced; and finding, that the quantity of caloric, which would result from the carbonic acid formed, was exactly that disengaged by those animals. Independently, however, of other objections, this hypothesis is liable to those already urged against that of Black, which it closely resembles. The objection, that the lungs ought to be much hotter than they really are—both absolutely and relatively—was attempted to be obviated by Dr. Crawford<sup>c</sup> in a most ingenious and apparently logical manner. The oxygen of the inspired air, according to him, combines, with the carbon given out by the blood, so as to form carbonic acid. But the specific heat of this is less than that of oxygen: and accordingly, a quantity of latent caloric is set free; and this caloric is not only sufficient to support the temperature of the body, but also to carry off the water—which was supposed to be formed by the union of the hydrogen and the oxygen—in the state of vapour, and to raise the temperature of the inspired air considerably. So far the theory of Crawford was liable to the same objections as those of Black, and Lavoisier and Séguin. He affirmed, however, that the same process by which the oxygen of the inspired air is converted into carbonic acid, converts likewise the venous into arterial blood; and as he assumed from his experiments, that the capacity for caloric of arterial blood is greater than that of venous, in the proportion of 1·0300 to 0·8928; he conceived, that the caloric, set free in the formation of the carbonic acid, in place of raising the temperature of the arterial blood, is employed in saturating its increased capacity, and in maintaining its temperature at the same degree with the venous. According to this view, therefore, the heat is not absolutely

<sup>a</sup> *Mém. de l'Acad. des Sciences pour 1777, 1780, and 1790.*

<sup>b</sup> *Mémoire de l'Acad. des Sciences pour 1780.*

<sup>c</sup> *Exp. &c. on Animal Heat*, 2d edit. London, 1788; and Fleming's *Philosophy of Zoology*, i. 387, Edinb. 1822.

set free in the lungs, although arterial blood contains a greater quantity of caloric than venous; but when, in the capillaries, the arterial becomes converted into venous blood, or into blood of a less capacity for caloric, the heat is disengaged, and occasions the temperature of the body.

If the facts, which served as a foundation for this beautiful theory of animal heat, were not false, the deductions would be irresistible; and, accordingly, it was at one time almost universally received, especially by those who consider that all vital operations can be assimilated to chemical processes; and it is still favoured by many. "The animal heat," observes a recent writer,<sup>a</sup> "has been accounted for in different ways by several ingenious physiologists; from the aggregate of their opinions and experiments, I deduce, that heat is extricated all over the frame, in the capillaries, by the action of the nerves, during the change of the blood, from scarlet arterial to purple venous; and also whilst it is changing in the lungs from purple to scarlet. There is a perpetual deposition by the capillary system of new matter, and decomposition of the old all over the frame, influenced by the nerves; in this decomposition there is a continual disengagement of carbon, which mixes with the blood returning to the heart, at the time it changes from scarlet to purple; this decomposition, being effected by the electric agency of the nerves, produces a constant extrication of caloric; again, in the lungs that carbon is thrown off and united with oxygen, during which caloric is again set free, so that we have in the lungs a charcoal fire constantly burning, and in the other parts a wood fire, the one producing carbonic acid gas, the other carbon, the food supplying through the circulation the vegetable (or what answers the same end, animal) fuel, from which the charcoal is prepared which is burned in the lung."<sup>b</sup> Numerous objections have, however, been made against the view of Crawford. In the *first* place, it was objected, that our knowledge is limited to the fact, that oxygen is taken into the pulmonary vessels, and carbonic acid given off, but that we had no means of knowing whether the one goes immediately to the formation of the other. Dr. Crawford had inferred from his experiments, that the specific heat of oxygen is 4.7490; of carbonic acid, 1.0454; of azote, 0.7936; and of atmospheric air, 1.7900; but the more recent experiments of Delaroche and Bérard make that of oxygen, 0.2361; of carbonic acid, 0.2210; of azote, 0.2754; and of atmospheric air, 0.2669; a difference of such trifling amount, that it has been conceived the quantity of caloric, given out by oxygen during its conversion into carbonic acid, would be insufficient to heat the residual air, which is expelled in breathing, to its ordinary elevation. *Secondly*. The elevation of temperature of one or two degrees, which appears to take place in the conversion of venous into arterial blood, although generally believed, is not assented to by all (see page 55). The experiments instituted on this point have been few and imprecise; and those of MM. Becquerel and Breschet,<sup>c</sup> made by introducing delicate thermometers

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Billing, *First Principles of Medicine*, 2d edit., p. 19, London, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> See, also, Elliotson, *Human Physiology*, p. 238, London, 1840.

<sup>c</sup> *Comptes Rendus*, Oct. 1841.

into the auricles of the heart of dogs, invariably gave the temperature of arterial blood only a few fractions of a degree higher than that of venous blood. *Thirdly*. M. Dulong,<sup>a</sup>—on repeating the experiments of Lavoisier and Laplace, for comparing the quantities of caloric, given off by animals in the calorimeter, with that which would result from the carbonic acid formed during the same time in their respiration—did not attain a like result. The quantity of caloric disengaged by the animal was always superior to that which would result from the carbonic acid formed. *Fourthly*. The estimate of Crawford, regarding the specific heat of venous and arterial blood, has been contested. He made that of the former, we have seen, 0.8928; of the latter, 1.0300. The result of the experiments of Dr. John Davy<sup>b</sup> give 0.903 to the former, and 0.913 to the latter; and in another case, the result of which has been adopted by Magendie, the specific heat of the venous was greater than that of the arterial blood, in the proportion of .852 to .839. Granting, however, the case to be as stated by Crawford, it is insufficient to explain the phenomena. It has, indeed, been attempted to show, that if the whole of the caloric, set free in the manner mentioned, were immediately absorbed, it would be insufficient for the constitution of the arterial blood; and that, instead of the lung running the risk of being calcined, it would be threatened with congelation.

The theory of combustion is still maintained by many physiologists, and an able writer of this country, Dr. Metcalfe,<sup>c</sup> from a consideration of the facts, which he adduces, thinks we are authorized to conclude;—*first*, that during the passage of dark venous blood through the lungs, it gives off variable proportions of carbon and hydrogen, which unite chemically with atmospheric oxygen to form carbonic acid and water as in ordinary combustion, by which it acquires an addition of caloric, with a bright florid hue; and *secondly*, that during its circulation through the systemic capillaries, the caloric obtained from the atmosphere is transferred to the solids, by which their temperature and vitality are maintained; and the blood returns to the heart of a dark modena hue, having lost its power of stimulating the organs, until it acquires an additional quantity of caloric from the lungs.

Recently, Dr. Spencer,<sup>d</sup> of Geneva College, N. Y., who regards the great end and function of respiration to be—to aid, both directly and indirectly, in the office of the generation and diffusion of animal heat, maintains, that the substance thrown off from the venous blood in respiration is hydrate of carbon;—that the carbon on coming in contact with atmospheric oxygen combines with it, forming carbonic acid, which is exhaled from the lungs and skin by expiration and perspiration;—that the amount of latent heat of the oxygen employed is much greater than that of the carbonic acid formed in the lungs, and hence caloric is set free, which imparts heat to the blood and surface;—that this free heat also combines with the water of the

<sup>a</sup> Magendie's *Journal de Physiologie*, iii. 45.

<sup>b</sup> *Philos. Transactions* for 1814.

<sup>c</sup> Caloric, its Mechanical, Chemical, and Vital Agencies, &c., ii. 555, London, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> *Lectures on Animal Heat*, Geneva, N. Y., 1845.

hydrate of carbon and converts it into vapour;—that the lungs and cutaneous surface aid in regulating animal temperature by the conversion of water into vapour, thus conveying off any excess of free caloric in the system, by combining with it in the form of latent heat;—that the water of the hydrate of carbon is converted into vapour in the lungs, and upon the surface, precisely as when wood is burned, and hence assumes the form of insensible respiratory and perspiratory transpiration;—and that the systemic red capillaries are the antagonists of the pulmonary, and are constantly decomposing carbonic acid, and, with water, forming hydrate of carbon,—or, in other words, carbonizing the blood; from which union water and carbonic acid are transformed into a solid substance, and hence latent becomes free heat, at every point where red blood circulates.

The views of Dr. Spencer are ingenious, but not convincing, and are presented by him, although aphoristically, in some detail. He objects to the view, which holds that hydro-carbon is thrown off from the blood in the lungs by its union with oxygen, because hydro-carbon is an imaginary compound. The same objection, however, holds to his hydrate of carbon, which he thinks exists in the blood in the solid state, and is analogous to, if not identical with, the lignin of vegetables. He is of opinion, that the systemic red capillaries are the antagonists of the pulmonary capillaries. It must not be forgotten, however, that there are also red capillaries in the lungs, and that in the system of nutrition every where arterial is converted into venous blood, and doubtless with the same phenomena.

The combustion theory has received the powerful support of Liebig, and many elucidations and expansions from that distinguished chemist. According to him, the carbon and hydrogen of the food, in being converted, through the agency of oxygen, into carbonic acid and water, must give out as much heat as if these gases were burned in the open air. The temperature of the human body is essentially the same in the torrid as in the frigid zone; but as the body may be regarded in the light of a heated vessel, which cools with the greater rapidity the colder the surrounding medium, the fuel, necessary to maintain its heat, must vary, he maintains, in different climates. How unequal must be the loss of heat at Palermo, where the external temperature is nearly equal to that of the body, and in the polar regions, where the external temperature is from 70° to 90° lower. In the animal body, the food is the fuel, and with a proper supply of oxygen we obtain the heat during its oxidation or combustion. In winter, when we take exercise in a cold atmosphere, and when, consequently, the amount of inspired oxygen increases, the necessity for food containing carbon and hydrogen increases in the same ratio, and, by gratifying the appetite thus excited, we obtain the most efficient protection against piercing cold. A starving man is soon frozen to death; and every one, according to Liebig, knows, that the animals of prey in the Arctic regions far exceed, in voracity, those of the torrid zone. Our clothing is merely an equivalent for a certain amount of food. Were we to go naked, like certain savage tribes, or if, in hunting or fishing, we were exposed to the same de-

gree of cold as the Samoyedes, we should be able with ease to consume sixteen pounds of flesh, and perhaps a dozen tallow candles into the bargain, as warmly clad travellers have related with astonishment of these people. We should then, also, be able to take the same quantity of brandy or train-oil without bad effects, because the carbon and hydrogen of these substances would only suffice to keep up the equilibrium between the external temperature and that of our bodies. The whole process of respiration is clearly exhibited when we view the condition of man or animals under abstinence from all food. Oxygen is abstracted from the air, and carbonic acid and water expired, because the number of respirations remains unaltered. With the continuance of the abstinence, the carbon and hydrogen of the body are seen diminishing. The first effect of abstinence is the disappearance of the fat, which can be detected neither in the scanty *fæces* nor urine; its carbon and hydrogen are thrown off by the skin and lungs, in the form of a compound with oxygen. These constituents, then, have served for the purposes of respiration. Every day, 32½ ounces of oxygen are inspired; and these must remove their equivalents of carbon to form carbonic acid. When this combination ceases to go on, respiration terminates: death has taken place. The time required for starving an animal to death depends on its fatness, on the state of its activity, on the temperature of the air, and on the presence or absence of water. That the quantity of heat evolved by the combination of 13·9 ounces of carbon is amply sufficient to account for the temperature of the human body, may be estimated by figures; an ounce of carbon, according to the experiments of Despretz, burned, would evolve 14067 degrees of heat; and 13·9 oz. would therefore give out 195531·3 degrees of heat. This would suffice to boil 67·9 pounds of water at 32°, or to convert 11·4 pounds of water at 98·3° into vapour. If we consider, then, the quantity of water vaporized through the skin to be, in twenty-four hours, 48 ounces or 3 pounds, there will remain, after deducting the necessary amount of heat, 144137·7 degrees of heat, which are dissipated by radiation, by heating the expired air, and by the excrementitious matters.<sup>a</sup>

These views of Liebig have necessarily attracted the attention of the chemical physiologist, and have met with unqualified support from some, whilst they have been as much condemned by others, who appear to have a horror at the introduction of chemical explanations to account for vital phenomena.<sup>b</sup> Yet it cannot be contested, that the function of calorification is an act of vital chemistry, and, therefore, although the views of Liebig may fail to convince, they certainly have taken the proper direction, and, all must admit, have been plausibly and ably supported. It has been objected, that if even the theory of Liebig be allowed to be applicable to mammalia, birds, and reptiles, it is by no means so to animals that respire by means of branchiæ or gills, all of which consume but little oxygen, comparatively speaking, yet many of them devour very great quantities of

<sup>a</sup> Animal Chemistry, Amer. edit. by Webster, p. 33, Cambridge, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> See, on Liebig's views, Mr. Ancell, London Lancet, 1842-3.

food. Even the largest and most voracious of the reptiles, as the alligators, crocodiles, &c., which consume enormous quantities of food, under a burning climate too, breathe feebly with their vesicular lungs, and consume but little oxygen. Fishes, too, whose blood is but imperfectly oxygenized by their branchial apparatus, are perhaps amongst the most voracious of animals; yet, according to the above theory, they ought to eat little, because they consume little oxygen. These and other facts were early urged by M. Virey,<sup>a</sup> as objections to the views of the Professor of Giessen. It may be replied, however, that in such cases, a large portion of the carbon must pass off in the excrements. There is no country in the world, according to Madame Calderon de la Barca,<sup>b</sup> where so much animal food is consumed as in Mexico, "and there is no country in which so little is required." To this and to want of exercise, she ascribes the early fading of beauty in the higher classes, the decay of teeth, and the over-corpulency so common amongst them; and in regard to the last she is, doubtless, correct.

To the statement of Liebig respecting the greater voraciousness of the animals of prey of the Arctic regions, it has been urged,<sup>c</sup> that a Bengal tiger or Cape hyena requires, in proportion to its size, quite as much aliment as any of the Arctic carnivora, and that the vultures of Hindostan and Persia exceed, perhaps, all other animals in gluttony. The voraciousness of the shark, too, even within the tropics, is proverbial. "Those who ride over the Pampas in South America," says Dr. Graves, "at the rate of one hundred miles a day, exposed to a burning sun, subsist entirely on boiled beef and water, without a particle of vegetable food of any kind, and yet they attain to an extraordinary condition, and capability of enduring violent and long-continued exertion. Liebig's theory must be very ductile, if it can explain how it happens, that an exclusively animal diet agrees with man quite as well at the equator as within the Arctic circle."<sup>d</sup> Numerous facts, indeed, can be brought forward of an opposite tendency to those of Liebig, which render it impracticable for us, in the present state of our knowledge, to embrace all his positions. Under Respiration, the theory, supported by him, that the blood corpuscles are the carriers of oxygen from the lungs to the tissues; and the conveyers of carbonic acid back from the tissues to the lungs, was mentioned. It would seem probable, therefore, that if the amount of blood corpuscles should become diminished from any cause, the function of calorification ought to be impaired to the like extent. To discover what effect was produced on the temperature of the living body by a diminution in the quantity of blood corpuscles, Andral performed some experiments, which showed that the temperature remained normal, even in cases in which the corpuscles had experienced the greatest diminution in number. In the axilla, the temperature was 98° or 99° of Fahrenheit in persons, the proportion

<sup>a</sup> Journal de Pharmacie, Mai, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Life in Mexico, vol. i. p. 152. Boston, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. R. J. Graves, A System of Clinical Medicine, p. 57. Dublin, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> See, on all this subject, Metcalf on Caloric, vol. ii. chapter 2. London, 1843.

of whose blood corpuscles was not higher than 50, 40, 30, and even 21 parts in the 1000; the healthy ratio being 127. Indeed, notwithstanding the great depression in anæmic patients, the heat rose as usual, when they were attacked with fever, to which they are as subject as other individuals.\*

But the combustion theories of calorification have been most seriously assailed by other experiments, tending to show, that the function of calorification is derived from the great nervous centres. When an animal is decapitated, or when the spinal marrow, or the brain, or both, are destroyed, the action of the heart may still be kept up, provided the lungs be artificially inflated. In such case, it is found, that the usual change in the blood, from venous to arterial, is produced; and that oxygen is absorbed and carbonic acid exhaled as usual. Sir Benjamin Brodie,<sup>b</sup> in performing this experiment, directed his attention to the point,—whether animal heat, under such circumstances, be evolved, and the temperature maintained, as where the brain and spinal marrow are entire—and he found, that although the blood appeared to undergo its ordinary changes, the generation of animal heat seemed to be suspended; and consequently, if the inspired air happened to be colder than the body, the effect of respiration was to cool the animal; so that an animal, on which artificial respiration was kept up, became sooner cold than one killed at the same time and left undisturbed. The inference, deduced from these experiments, was, that instead of circulation and respiration maintaining the heat, they dissipate it; and that as the heat is diminished by the destruction of the nervous centres, its disengagement must be ascribed to the action of those centres, and particularly to that of the encephalon.

Upwards of twenty years ago, M. Chossat,<sup>c</sup> endeavoured to discover the precise part of the nervous system engaged in calorification; but the results of his experiments were not such as to induce him to refer it exclusively, with Sir B. Brodie, to the encephalon. He divided the brain, anterior to the pons varolii, in a living animal, so that the eighth pair of nerves were uninjured. Respiration, consequently, continued, and inflation of the lungs was unnecessary. Notwithstanding this serious mutilation, the circulation went on; and Chossat observed distinctly, that arterial blood circulated in the arteries. Yet the temperature of the animal gradually sank, from 104° Fahr.,—its elevation at the commencement of the experiment,—to 76°, in twelve hours, when the animal died. It seemed manifest to M. Chossat, that, from the time the brain was divided, heat was no longer given off, and the body gradually cooled, as it would have done after death. He, moreover, noticed, that the time, at which the refrigeration occurred most rapidly, was that in which the circulation was most active,—at the commencement of the experiment. In other experiments, M. Chossat

\* Andral, *Hématologie Pathologique*, p. 60. Paris, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Philos. Trans. for 1811 and 1812.

<sup>c</sup> Sur la Chaleur Animale, Paris, 1820; Adelon, op. cit. iii. 416; Coutanceau, in art. Chaleur Animale, Dict. de Méd. iv. 17, Paris, 1822; and P. H. Bérard, art. Chaleur Animale, Dict. de Méd. 2de édit. vii. 206, Paris, 1834.

paralysed the action of the brain by violent concussion, and by injecting a strong decoction of opium into the jugular vein,—keeping up respiration at the same time artificially. The results were the same. From these experiments, he drew the conclusion, that the brain has a direct influence over the production of heat. His next experiments were directed to the discovery of the medium through which the brain acts,—the eighth pair of nerves, or, spinal marrow. He divided the eighth pair of nerves in a dog, and kept up artificial respiration. The temperature sank gradually, and, at the expiration of sixty hours, when the animal died, it was reduced to 68° of Fahrenheit. Yet death did not occur from asphyxia or suspension of the phenomena of respiration, as the lungs crepitated, exhibited no signs of infiltration, and were partly filled with arterial blood. The animal appeared to M. Chossat to expire from cold. As, however, the mean depression of heat was less than in the preceding experiments, he inferred that a slight degree of heat is still disengaged after the section of the eighth pair, whilst, after injury done to the brain directly, heat is no longer given off. Again, he divided the spinal marrow beneath the occiput, and although artificial respiration was maintained, as in the experiments of Brodie, the temperature gradually fell, and the animal died ten hours afterwards, its heat being 79°; and as death occurred in this case so much more speedily than in the last, he inferred, that the influence of the brain over the production of heat is transmitted rather by the spinal marrow than by the eighth pair of nerves. In his farther experiments, M. Chossat found, that when the spinal marrow was divided between each of the twelve dorsal vertebrae, the depression of temperature occurred less and less rapidly, the lower the intervertebral section; and at the lowest it was imperceptible; he, therefore, concluded, that the spinal marrow does not act directly in the function, but indirectly through the trisplanchnic nerve. To satisfy himself on this point, he opened a living animal on the left side, beneath the twelfth rib, and removed the supra-renal capsule of that side, dividing the trisplanchnic where it joins the semilunar plexus. The animal gradually lost its heat, and died ten hours afterwards in the same state, as regarded temperature, as when the spinal marrow was divided beneath the occiput.

Desiring to obtain more satisfactory results,—the last experiment applying to only one of the trisplanchnic nerves,—he tied the aorta, which supplies both with the materials on which they operate, beneath the place where it passes through the arch of the diaphragm, at the same time preventing asphyxia by inflating the lungs. The animal lost its heat much more rapidly, and died in five hours. In all these cases, according to M. Chossat, death occurred from cold; the function by which the caloric, constantly abstracted from the system by the surrounding medium, is generated, having been rendered impracticable. To obtain a medium of comparison, he killed several animals by protracted immersion in cold water, and found, that the lowest temperature, to which the warm-blooded could be reduced, and life persist, was 79° of Fahrenheit. M. Chossat also alludes to cases of natural death by congelation, which he conceives to destroy in the



manner before suggested, by impairing the nervous energy, as indicated by progressive stupor, and by debility of the chief functions of the economy. Lastly:—on killing animals suddenly, and attending to the progress of refrigeration after death, he found it to be identical with that which follows direct injury of the brain, or division of the spinal marrow beneath the occiput.

A view somewhat analogous to that of M. Chossat, was embraced by Sir Everard Home.<sup>a</sup> He conceived, that the phenomenon is restricted to the ganglionic part of the nervous system, and he rested the opinion chiefly upon the position, that there are certain animals, which have a brain, or some part equivalent to one, but whose temperature is not higher than that of the surrounding medium; whilst, on the other hand, all the animals that evolve heat are provided with ganglia.

The doctrines of Brodie, Chossat, and Home have been considered by the generality of the chemists—by Brande,<sup>b</sup> Thomson,<sup>c</sup> and Paris,<sup>d</sup>—to be completely subversive of the chemical doctrines, which refer the production of animal heat to the respiratory function; and their position,—that it is a nervous function,—has seemed to be confirmed by the facts attendant upon injury done to the nerves of parts, and by what is witnessed in paralytic limbs, the heat of which is generally and markedly inferior to that of the sound parts. But there are many difficulties in the way of admitting, that the nervous system is the special organ for the production of animal temperature. Dr. Wilson Philip,<sup>e</sup> from a repetition of the experiments of Sir Benjamin Brodie, was led to conclude, that the cause, why the temperature of the animal body diminished more rapidly, when artificial inflation was practised, than when the animal was left undisturbed, was—too large a quantity of air having been sent into the lungs; and he found, that when a less quantity was used, the cooling process was sensibly retarded by the inflation. The experiments of Legallois,<sup>f</sup> Hastings,<sup>g</sup> and Williams,<sup>h</sup> although differing from each other in certain particulars, corroborate the conclusion of Dr. Philip, and, what is singular, they would appear to show, that the temperature occasionally *rises* during the experiment; facts, which would rather confirm the view that respiration is greatly concerned in the evolution of heat.

Many of the facts, detailed by Chossat, are curious, and exhibit the indirect agency of the nervous system; but his conclusion, that the trisplanchnic is the great organ for its developement, is liable to the objections already urged regarding the theory, which looks upon the heart, or the lungs, as furnaces for the disengagement of caloric, that they ought to be consumed in a short space of time by the operation. All the facts, however, exhibit, that, in the upper classes of animals,

<sup>a</sup> Philos. Trans. p. 257, for 1825; Journal of Science and Arts, xx. 307; and Lect. on Comparative Anat. v. 121 and 194, Lond. 1828.

<sup>b</sup> Manual of Chemistry, vol. iii.

<sup>c</sup> System of Chemistry, vol. iv.

<sup>d</sup> Medical Chemistry, p. 327, Lond. 1825.

<sup>e</sup> An Experimental Inquiry into the Laws of the Vital Functions, 3d edit. p. 180.

<sup>f</sup> Annales de Chimie, iv. 5, Paris, 1817.

<sup>g</sup> Wilson Philip, op. cit.; and Journal of Science, &c. xiv. 96.

<sup>h</sup> Edinb. Medico-chirurgical Transact. ii. 192.

the three great acts of innervation, respiration, and circulation are indirectly concerned in the function; not that any one is the special apparatus. M. Edwards has attempted to show, that it is more connected with the second of these than with either of the others. Thus, animals, whose temperature is highest, bear privation of air the least; whilst cold-blooded animals suffer comparatively little from it; and young animals are less affected by it than the adult. Now, the greater the temperature of the animal, and the nearer to the adult age, the greater is the consumption of oxygen. He farther observed, that whilst the seasons modify calorification, they affect also respiration; and that if, in summer, less heat be elicited, and in winter more, respiration consumes less oxygen in the former season than in the latter.

The experiments of Legallois, as well as those instituted by Edwards, led the latter to infer, that there is a certain ratio between heat and respiration, in both cold-blooded and warm-blooded animals, and in hibernating animals, both in the periods of torpidity and of full activity. When the eighth pair of nerves is divided in the young of the mammalia, a considerable diminution is produced in the opening of the glottis; so that, in puppies, recently born, or one or two days old, so little air enters the lungs, that when the experiment is made under ordinary circumstances, the animal perishes as quickly as if it were entirely deprived of air. It lives about half an hour. But, if the same operation be performed upon puppies of the same age benumbed with cold, they will live a whole day. In the first case, M. Edwards thinks, and plausibly, the small quantity of air is insufficient to counteract the effect of the heat; whilst, in the other, it is sufficient to prolong life considerably, and he deduces the following practical inferences applicable to the adult age, and particularly to man. A person, he remarks, is asphyxied by an excessive quantity of carbonic acid in the air he breathes; the pulse is no longer perceptible; the respiratory movements cannot be discerned, but his temperature is still elevated. How should we proceed to recall life. Although the action of the respiratory organs is no longer visible, all communication with the air is not cut off. The air is in contact with the skin, upon which it exerts a vivifying influence; it is also in contact with the lungs, in which it is renewed by the agitation constantly taking place in the atmosphere, and by the heat of the body, which rarefies it. The heart continues to beat, and maintains a certain degree of circulation, although not perceptible by the pulse. The temperature of the body is too high to allow the feeble respiration to produce upon the system all the effect of which it is capable. The temperature must then be reduced; the patient must be withdrawn from the deleterious atmosphere; be stripped of his clothes, in order that the air may have a more extended action upon his skin; be exposed to the cold, although it be winter, and cold water be thrown upon his face until the respiratory movements reappear. This is precisely the treatment adopted in practice to revive an individual from a state of asphyxia. If, instead of cold, continued warmth were to be applied, it would be one of the most effectual means of extinguishing life. This consequence, like the former, is confirmed by experience. In

sudden faintings, where the pulse is weak or imperceptible, the action of the respiratory organs diminished, and sensation and voluntary motion suspended, persons, the most ignorant of medicine, are aware, that means of refrigeration must be employed,—such as exposure to air, ventilation, and sprinkling with cold water. In violent attacks of asthma, also, when the extent of respiration is so limited that the patient experiences a sense of suffocation, he courts the cold air even in the severest weather; opens the windows; breathes a frosty air, and finds himself relieved.

As a general rule, an elevated temperature accelerates the respiratory movements, but the degree of temperature, requisite to produce this effect, is not the same in all. The object of this accelerated respiration is, that more air may come in contact with the lungs, in a given time, so as to reanimate what the heat depresses.

It is proper to remark, however, that we meet with many exceptions to the rule endeavoured to be laid down by M. Edwards, as regards the constant ratio between heat and respiration. Experiments on the lower animals, and pathological cases in man, have shown, that lesions of the upper part of the spinal marrow give occasion, at times, to an extraordinary developement of heat. In the case of a man at St. George's Hospital, London, labouring under a lesion of the cervical vertebræ, Sir B. Brodie observed the temperature to rise to 111°, at a time when the respirations were not more than five or six in a minute.<sup>a</sup> Drs. Graves and Stokes<sup>b</sup> give the case of a patient who laboured under a very extensive developement of tubercles, had tubercular abscesses in the upper portions of both lungs, and general bronchitis. In this case, at a period when the skin was hotter than usual, and the pulse 126, the respirations were only 14 in the minute; besides, as Dr. Alison<sup>c</sup> has remarked, the temperature of the body is not raised by voluntarily increasing or quickening the acts of respiration; but by voluntary exertions of other muscles, which accelerate the circulation, and thus necessitate an increased frequency of respiration; a fact, which would seem to show that calorification is dependent not simply on the application of oxygen to the blood, but on the changes that take place during circulation, and to the maintenance of which the oxygenation of the blood is one essential condition. Moreover, in the fœtus in utero, there is, of course, no respiration; yet its temperature equals, and indeed is said to even exceed, that of the mother; and we know that its circulation is more rapid, and its nutrition more active.<sup>d</sup> That innervation is indirectly concerned in the phenomenon is proved by the various facts which have

<sup>a</sup> London Medical Gazette, for June, 1836; and G. T. Morgan's *First Principles of Surgery*, p. 85. Lond. 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Dublin Hospital Reports, vol. v. See, also, Dr. Graves, *Clinical Lectures*, Dunglison's American Med. Lib. edit. p. 126, Philad. 1838; and Dr. John Davy, *Researches, Physiological and Anatomical*, Amer. Med. Lib. edit. p. 89. Philad. 1840.

<sup>c</sup> *Outlines of Physiology*. Lond. 1831.

<sup>d</sup> See, also, on the connexion of respiration with calorification, P. H. Bérard, art. *Chaleur Animale*, in *Dict. de Méd.*, 2de édit. vii. 175, Paris, 1834; Dr. Southwood Smith's *Philosophy of Health*, vol. ii., Lond. 1838; and Mr. Newport on the *Temperature of Insects*, and its Connexion with the Functions of Respiration and Circulation in this class of invertebrated animals, *Philos. Transact.* part ii. 4to. p. 77. Lond. 1837.

been referred to; and, Legallois, although he does not accord with Sir B. Brodie, conceives, that the temperature is greatly under the influence of the nervous system, and that whatever weakens the nervous power, proportionally diminishes the capability of producing heat. Dr. Philip, too, concluded from his experiments, that the nervous influence is so intimately connected with the power of evolving heat, that it must be looked upon as a necessary medium between the different steps of the operation. He found, that if the galvanic influence be applied to fresh-drawn arterial blood, an evolution of heat, amounting to three or four degrees, takes place, whilst the blood assumes the venous hue and becomes partly coagulated. He regards the process of calorification as a secretion; and explains it upon his general principle of the identity of the nervous and galvanic influences, and of the necessity for the exercise of such influence in the function of secretion.<sup>a</sup>

Mr. H. Earle<sup>b</sup> found the temperature of paralysed limbs to be slightly lower than that of sound limbs, and the same effect upon calorification is observed to supervene on traumatic injuries of the nerves. In a case of hemiplegia, of five months' duration, under the author's care at the Blockley Hospital, the thermometer in the right—the sound—axilla of the man stood at  $96\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ ; in the axilla of the paralysed side at  $96^{\circ}$ . The difference in temperature of the hands was more signal. The right hand carried the mercury to  $87^{\circ}$ , whilst the left raised it no further than  $79\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ . In another case—that of a female—of two weeks' duration, accompanied with signs of cerebral turgescence, the temperature in the axilla of the sound side was  $100^{\circ}$ ; in that of the paralyzed  $98.25^{\circ}$ : of the hand of the sound side,  $94^{\circ}$ ; of the other,  $90^{\circ}$ .<sup>c</sup> It is a general fact, that the temperature of the paralysed side in hemiplegia is less than that of the sound side; yet the irregularity of nervous action is so great, and the power of resistance to excitant or depressing agents so much diminished, that the author has not unfrequently found the temperature to be more elevated.<sup>d</sup>

Lastly, that the circulation is necessary to calorification, we have evidence in the circumstance that if the vessels proceeding to a part be tied, animal heat is no longer disengaged from it. It has been seen, however, that there is no certain ratio between the heat and the frequency of the pulse.

It is manifest, then, that in animals, and especially in the warm-blooded, the three great vital operations are necessary for the disengagement of the due temperature, but we have no sufficient evidence of the direct agency of any one, and we see heat elicited in the vegetable, in which these functions are at all events rudimental; and the existence of one of them—innervation—more than doubtful.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Ley, in Appendix to Essay on Laryngismus Stridulus, &c., p. 374. Lond. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Medico-chirurgical Transactions, vii. 173. Lond. 1819.

<sup>c</sup> See Nasse, Untersuchungen zur Physiologie und Pathologie. Bonn. 1835-6.

<sup>d</sup> American Med. Intelligencer, Oct. 15, 1838, p. 252.

<sup>e</sup> Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Principles of General and Comparative Physiology, p. 379, Lond. 1839.

The view of those, who consider that the disengagement of caloric occurs in the intermediate system or system of nutrition of the whole body, appears to us the most consistent with observed phenomena. These views have varied according to the physical circumstances, that have been looked upon as producing heat. By some, it has been regarded as the product of effervescence of the blood and humours; by others, as owing to the disengagement of an igneous matter, or spirit from the blood; by others to an agitation of the sulphureous parts of the blood; whilst Boerhaave<sup>a</sup> and Douglas<sup>b</sup> ascribe it to the friction of the blood against the parietes of the vessels, and of the globules against each other. In favour of the last hypothesis, it was urged, that animal heat is in a direct ratio with the velocity of the circulation, the circumference of the vessels, and the extent of their surface; and that thus we are able to explain, why the heat of parts decreases in a direct ratio with their distance from the heart; and the greater heat of the arterial blood in the lungs was accounted for, by the supposition, that the pulmonary circulation is far more rapid. Most of these notions are entirely hypothetical. The data are generally incorrect, and the deductions characteristic of the faulty physics of the period in which they were indulged. The correct view, it appears to us, is, that caloric is disengaged in every part, by a special chemico-vital action, which, in animals, is greatly under the nervous influence. In this manner, calorification becomes a function executed in the whole system of nutrition, and therefore appropriately considered in this place. It has been remarked by Tiedemann,<sup>c</sup> that the intussusception of alimentary matters, and their assimilation by digestion and respiration, the circulation of the humours, nutrition and secretion, the renewal of materials accompanying the exercise of life, and the constant changes of composition in the solid and liquid parts of the organism,—all of which are under the nervous influence,—participate in the evolution of heat, and we deceive ourselves when we look for the cause in one of those acts only. In some experiments by Dr. Robert E. Rogers,<sup>d</sup> he found that when recently drawn venous blood contained in a freshly removed pig's bladder was immersed in oxygen gas, there was a remarkable elevation of temperature. Dr. Davy<sup>e</sup> performed some experiments which led to the same results. In one of these, he took a very thin vial, of the capacity of eight liquid ounces, and carefully enveloped it in badly conducting substances—namely, several folds of flannel, fine oiled paper, and oiled cloth. Thus prepared, and a perforated cork being provided, holding a delicate thermometer, two cubic inches of mercury were introduced, and immediately after it was filled with venous blood kept liquid by agitation. The vial was

<sup>a</sup> Van Swieten, Comment in Boerhaav. Aphorism., &c. § 382, 675, Lugd. Bat. 1742-1772.

<sup>b</sup> On Animal Heat, p. 47, Lond. 1747.

<sup>c</sup> *Traité de Physiologie*, &c. trad. par Jourdan, p. 514, Paris, 1831; Ley, op. cit. Appendix, p. 303; and Collard de Martigny, in *Journal Complémentaire des Sciences Médicales*, xliii. 268, Paris, 1832.

<sup>d</sup> *Amer. Journal of the Med. Sciences*, p. 297, for Aug. 1836.

<sup>e</sup> Proceedings of the Royal Society for 1837-8, No. 34, and *Researches Physiological and Anatomical*, Duglison's American Med. Lib. edit. p. 89, Philad. 1840.

then corked, and shaken. The thermometer included was stationary at  $45^{\circ}$ . After five minutes, during which it remained stationary, it was withdrawn; the vial, closed by another cork, was transferred inverted to a mercurial bath, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubic inch of oxygen was introduced. The common cork was returned, and the vial was well agitated for about a minute: the thermometer was now introduced; it rose immediately to  $46^{\circ}$ , and by continuing the agitation, it rose further to  $46.5^{\circ}$ , and very nearly to  $47^{\circ}$ . This experiment was made on the blood of the sheep. These and other experiments of a similar character, Dr. Davy thinks, appear to favour the idea, that animal heat is owing, first, to the fixation or condensation of oxygen in the blood in the lungs, in its conversion from venous to arterial; and secondly, to the combinations into which it enters in the circulation in connexion with the different secretions and changes essential to animal life.

Recent experiments by M. Chossat<sup>a</sup> have shown the great dependence of the function of calorification on the proper supply of materials on which changes have to be effected in the system of nutrition. He found, that birds, when totally deprived of food and drink, experienced a gradual, although slight daily diminution of temperature. This was not shown so much by a fall of their maximum heat, as by an increase in the diurnal variation which he found to exist in the healthy state. The amount of this variation in birds properly supplied with food, is  $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit daily—the maximum being about noon, and the minimum at midnight. In the state of inanition, however, the average variation was about  $6^{\circ}$ , and it gradually increased as the animal became weaker. The gradual rise of temperature, too, which should have taken place between midnight and noon, was retarded, whilst the fall subsequently to noon commenced much earlier than in the healthy state; so that the average of the whole day was lowered by about  $4\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  between the first and the last day but one of this condition. On the last day, the diminution took place very rapidly, and the thermometer fell from hour to hour, until death supervened—the whole loss on that day being about  $25^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit, making the total depression about  $29\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . On examining the amount of loss sustained by the different organs of the body, it was found that 93 per cent. of the fat had disappeared,—all, in fact, that could be removed; whilst the nervous centres exhibited scarcely any diminution in weight. The loss in weight of the whole body averaged about 40 per cent.

The preservation of weight by the nervous centres has been regarded, but with little plausibility, to favour the idea, that they may be formed from fatty matter,<sup>b</sup>—a portion of the fat absorbed being appropriated to their nutrition; yet it would be strange if proteinaceous compounds should be required for other organized structures, and that the highest of all in importance should originate from a non-nitrogenized material, or what Liebig terms an “element of respiration.” Dr. Carpenter considers, that from the constant coincidence between the entire con-

<sup>a</sup> *Recherches Expérimentales sur l'Inanition*, Paris, 1843; reviewed in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, April, 1844.

<sup>b</sup> Carpenter, *Principles of Human Physiology*, 2d edit., p. 675, London, 1844.

sumption of the fat, and the depression of temperature, joined to the fact, that the duration of life under the inanitiating process evidently varied *cæteris paribus* with the amount of fat previously accumulated in the body, the inference seems irresistible, that the calorifying power depended chiefly—if not wholly—on the materials supplied by this substance; and he adds—whenever the store of combustible matter in the system was exhausted, whether by the respiratory process alone, or by this in conjunction with the conversion of adipous matter into the materials for the nervous or other tissues, the inanitated animals died by the cooling of their bodies consequent upon the loss of calorifying power. This is plausible; yet it can be readily imagined, that the loss of the accustomed supply of aliment may so interfere with changes perpetually taking place in the system of nutrition, as to give occasion to the functional changes, which eventuate in the loss of life, and that the system cannot exist for any length of time on the materials that are taken up from itself. The use of the fat as a nutriment deposited for special occasions, is generally admitted by physiologists. Its use as an element of respiration has only been suggested of late years; and it must be admitted, that the view embraced by Dr. Carpenter is confirmed by the experiments of M. Chossat, who found that when inanitated animals, whose death is impending were subjected to artificial heat, they were almost uniformly restored from a state of insensibility and want of muscular power to a condition of comparative activity: their temperature rose; their muscular power returned; they flew about the room and took food when it was presented to them; and if the artificial assistance was sufficiently prolonged, and they were not again subjected to the starving process, most of them recovered. In other words, it might be said, that the application of artificial warmth prevented the farther consumption of the fuel—fat—and exerted a most salutary agency on the organic as well as the animal functions.

The experiments of M. Chossat are the more worthy of attention and of careful repetition, from their seeming to lead to a conclusion, which Dr. Carpenter, indeed, thinks can scarcely be questioned, from the similarity of the phenomena,—that inanitation, with its consequent depression of temperature, is the immediate cause of death in various diseases of exhaustion. Hence it has been suggested, that in those forms of febrile diseases in which no decided lesion is discoverable after death, a judicious and timely application of artificial heat might prolong life until the malignant influence—as in cases of narcotic poisoning—had passed away. It has been suggested, too, that the beneficial result of alcohol in protracted cases of such fevers, and the large amount in which it may be given with impunity, may probably be accounted for on this principle. “We cannot support the system in fever by *aliment*, for this would not be digested, even if it were taken into the stomach. But we well know the beneficial effects of alcohol in its advanced stages; and the large quantity of this stimulus that may be administered in many cases of fever is a matter of familiar experience. Now, admitting that its beneficial operation is partly due to its specific effect upon the nervous system, we cannot

help thinking, that we are to regard it as also resulting from the new supply of combustible material, which is thus introduced in the only form in which it can be taken up by the vascular system. If we turn our attention for a moment to the state of the digestive apparatus at this period, we shall at once see why no other substance should answer the same purpose. In the advanced stage of fever, the secretion of gastric fluid, and the special absorbent process which takes place through the villi and lacteals, seem to be in complete abeyance. Still, however, simple imbibition may go on through the walls of the blood-vessels, provided that the circumstances are favourable to the production of endosmose; that is, provided the fluid in the alimentary canal is less dense than the blood. Now, the substances on which we ordinarily depend for the support of the respiratory process are either of an oily, a saccharine, or a mucilaginous character. Oily substances cannot be taken in by imbibition, since they completely check the endosmotic current. Saccharine and mucilaginous substances can only be taken in, when their solution is so dilute as to be of a density much inferior to that of the blood; hence they must be given in a large bulk of fluid; a practice of which experience has shown the benefit. But alcohol, being already of a density far inferior to that of the blood, is easily absorbed; and, from deficiency of other materials, it is rapidly consumed, so that a very large quantity may be thus ingested, without its stimulating effects being perceptible; just as we see that, in a very cold atmosphere, large quantities of spirituous liquors may be taken with impunity, on account of the rapid combustion they undergo."

It is by the theory of the general evolution of caloric in the capillary system, or in the system of nutrition, that we are capable of accounting for the increased heat that occurs in certain local affections, in which the temperature greatly exceeds that of the same parts in health. By some, it has been doubted, whether, in cases of local inflammation, any such augmentation of temperature exists, but the error seems to have arisen from the temperature of the part, in health, having generally been ranked at blood heat; whereas, we shall find, that it differs essentially in different parts. Dr. Thomson found, that a small inflamed spot, in his right groin, gave out, in the course of four days, a quantity of heat, sufficient to have heated seven wine-pints of water from  $40^{\circ}$  to  $212^{\circ}$ ; yet the temperature was not sensibly less than that of the rest of the body at the end of the experiment, when the inflammation had ceased.<sup>b</sup>

By supposing that calorification is effected in every part of the body, we can understand, too, why different portions should have different temperatures; as the activity of the function may vary, in this respect, according to the organ.<sup>c</sup> Chopart and Dessault found the heat of the rectum to be  $100^{\circ}$ ; of the axilla and groin, when covered with clothes,  $96^{\circ}$ ; and of the chest,  $92^{\circ}$ . Dr. Davy<sup>d</sup> found the tem-

<sup>a</sup> Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1844, p. 356.

<sup>b</sup> Annals of Philosophy, ii. 27.

<sup>c</sup> J. Hunter, Observations on the Animal Economy, Lond. 1786.

<sup>d</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1814; see, also, Roger, Archiv. Général. de Méd. Juillet, Août, &c. 1844.



perature of a naked man, just risen from bed, to be  $90^{\circ}$  in the middle of the sole of the foot;  $93^{\circ}$  between the inner ankle and tendo achillis;  $91.5^{\circ}$  in the middle of the shin;  $93^{\circ}$  in the calf;  $95^{\circ}$  in the ham;  $91^{\circ}$  in the middle of the thigh;  $96.5^{\circ}$  in the fold of the groin;  $95^{\circ}$  at three lines beneath the umbilicus;  $94^{\circ}$  on the sixth rib of the left side;  $93^{\circ}$  on the same rib of the right side; and  $98^{\circ}$  in the axilla. MM. Edwards and Gentil found the temperature of a strong adult male, to be, in the rectum and mouth,  $102^{\circ}$ ; in the hands,  $100^{\circ}$ ; in the axilla and groins,  $98^{\circ}$ ; on the cheeks,  $97^{\circ}$ ; on the prepuce and the feet,  $96^{\circ}$ ; and on the chest and abdomen,  $95^{\circ}$ . All these experiments, it is obvious, concern only the temperature of parts, which can be readily modified by the circumambient medium. To judge of the comparative temperature of the internal organs, Dr. Davy killed a calf, and noted the temperature of different parts, both external and internal. The blood of the jugular vein raised the thermometer to  $105.5^{\circ}$ ; and that of the carotid artery to  $107^{\circ}$ . The heat of the rectum was  $105.5^{\circ}$ ; of the metatarsus,  $97^{\circ}$ ; of the tarsus,  $90^{\circ}$ ; of the knee,  $102^{\circ}$ ; of the head of the femur,  $103^{\circ}$ ; of the groin,  $104^{\circ}$ ; of the under part of the liver,  $106^{\circ}$ ; of the substance of that organ,  $106^{\circ}$ ; of the lung,  $106.5^{\circ}$ ; of the left ventricle,  $107^{\circ}$ ; of the right,  $106^{\circ}$ ; and of the substance of the brain,  $104^{\circ}$ .

In the case of fistulous opening into the stomach, observed by Dr. Beaumont,<sup>a</sup> the thermometer indicated a difference of three-fourths of a degree between the splenic and pyloric orifices of the stomach; the temperature of the latter being more elevated. It is not easy to account for these differences, without supposing that each part has the power of disengaging its own heat, and that the communication of caloric is not sufficiently ready to prevent the difference from being perceptible.

Of the mode in which heat is evolved in the system of nutrition, it is impossible for us to arrive at any satisfactory information. The result alone indicates, that the process has been accomplished. In the present state of our knowledge, we are compelled to refer it to some chemico-vital action, of the nature of which we are ignorant; but which seems to be possessed by all organized bodies,—vegetable as well as animal. We shall have to refer hereafter, when treating of the phenomena of death (vol. ii. chap. 6), to interesting observations of Dr. John Davy, Dr. Dowler of New Orleans, and others, showing that the heat of the body may rise after somatic death,—that is, after the cessation of circulation and respiration; and that this elevation of temperature varies materially in different parts of the body. The disengagement of caloric, which takes place until the supervention of the putrefactive process, must manifestly be of a physical character, and of course in no respect connected with respiration. Still, it may admit of a question, whether this disengagement of caloric is identical with that which takes place in the living body, and constitutes the function now under consideration. This much, however, the observations establish, that physical changes in the recently dead may give occa-

<sup>a</sup> Exp. and Observations on the Gastric Juice, p. 274, Plattsburg, 1833.

sion to the evolution of heat in a manner strikingly analogous to what takes place during life.

It was stated early in this section, that man possesses the power of resisting cold as well as heat within certain limits, and of preserving his temperature greatly unmodified. Let us inquire into the direct and indirect agents of these counteracting influences. As the mean temperature of the warmest regions does not exceed 85° of Fahrenheit, it is obvious that he must be constantly disengaging caloric to the surrounding medium;—still, his temperature remains the same. This is effected by the mysterious agency which we have been considering, materially aided, however, by several circumstances, both intrinsic and extrinsic. The external envelope of the body is a bad conductor of caloric, and therefore it protects the internal organs, to a certain extent, from the sudden influence of excessive heat or cold. But the cutaneous system of man is a much less efficient protection than that of animals. In the warm-blooded animals, in general, the bodies are covered with hair or feathers. The whale is destitute of hair; but, besides the protection, which is afforded by the extraordinary thickness of its skin, and the stratum of fat—a bad conductor of caloric—with which the skin is lined, as the animal constantly resides in the water, it is not subjected to the same vicissitudes of temperature as land animals. The seals, bears, and walruses, which seek their food in the same seas, sleep on land. They have a coating of hair to protect them. In the cases of some of the birds of the genus *Anas*, of northern regions, we meet with a singular anomaly,—the whole of the circumference of the anus being devoid of feathers, but to make amends for this deficiency, the animal has the power of secreting an oleaginous substance, with which the surface is kept constantly smeared. It may be remarked, that we do not find the quantity of feathers on the bodies of birds to be proportionate to the cold of the climates in which they reside, as is pretty universally the case regarding the quantity of hair on the mammalia.

Man is compelled to have recourse to clothing, for the purpose of preventing the sudden abstraction or reception of heat. This he does by covering himself with substances which are bad conductors of caloric, and retain an atmosphere next to the surface, which is warmed by the caloric of the body. He is compelled, also, in the colder seasons, to have recourse to artificial temperature; and it will be obvious, from what has already been said, that the greater the degree of activity of any organ or set of organs, the greater will be the heat developed; and in this way muscular exertion and digestion must influence its production.

By an attention to all these points, and by his acquaintance with the physical laws relative to the development and propagation of caloric, man is enabled to live amongst the Arctic snows, and to exist in climates, where the temperature is frequently for a length of time upwards of 150° lower than that of his own body. The contrivances adopted in the polar voyages, under the direction of Captain Parry and others, are monuments of ingenuity directed to obviate one of the greatest obstacles to prolonged existence in inhospitable

regions, for which man is naturally incapacitated, and for which he attains the capability solely by the exercise of that superior intellect with which he has been vested by the Author of his being. In periods of intense cold, the extreme parts of the body do not possess the necessary degree of vitality to resist congelation, unless they are carefully protected. In the disastrous expedition of Napoleon to Russia, the loss of the nose and ears was a common casualty; and, in Arctic voyages, frost-bites occur in spite of every care.<sup>a</sup> When the temperature of the whole body sinks to about 78° or 79°, death takes place, preceded by the symptoms of nervous depression, which have been previously detailed.

The counteracting influence which is exerted, when the body is exposed to a temperature greatly above the ordinary standard of the animal, is as difficult of appreciation as that by which calorification is effected. The probability is, that, in such case, the disengagement of animal heat is suspended; and that the body receives heat from without, by direct, but not by rapid, communication, owing to its being an imperfect conductor of caloric. Through the agency of this extraneous heat, the temperature rises a limited number of degrees; but its elevation is generally considered to be checked by the evaporation constantly taking place through the cutaneous and pulmonary transpirations. For this last idea we are indebted to Franklin,<sup>b</sup> and its correctness and truth have been maintained by most observers. MM. Berger and Delaroche put into an oven, heated to from 120° to 140°, a frog, one of those porous vessels, called *alcarazas*—which permit the transudation of the fluid, within them, through their sides—filled with water at the animal heat, and two sponges, imbibed with the same water. The temperature of the frog at the expiration of two hours, was 99°; and the other bodies continued at the same. Having substituted a rabbit for the frog, the result was identical. On the other hand, having placed animals in a warm atmosphere, so saturated with humidity that no evaporation could occur, they received the caloric by communication, and their temperature rose; whilst inert, evaporable bodies, put into a dry stove, became but slightly warmed;—much less so, indeed, than the warm-blooded animals in the moist stove.<sup>c</sup> Hence, they concluded, that evaporation is a great refrigerative agent when the body is exposed to excessive heat; and that such evaporation is considerable is shown by the loss in weight which animals sustain by the experiment.

Recently, however, it has been contested that the cutaneous evaporation has any effect in tempering the heat of the body; whilst it is admitted that the elimination from the system of a certain quantity of aqueous matter is all important;—whatever arrests it being the source of morbid phenomena. MM. Becquerel and Breschet<sup>d</sup> found, when the hair of rabbits had been shaved off, and the skin covered with an

<sup>a</sup> Larrey, *Mémoires de Chirurgie Militaire et Campagnes*, tom. iv. p. 91, 106, and 129. Paris, 1817.

<sup>b</sup> Works, iii. 294, Philad. 1809; or Sparks's edit., vi. 213, Boston, 1838.

<sup>c</sup> Delaroche, in *Journal de Physique*, lxxi. 289, Paris, 1810; Coctanceau, *Dict. de Méd.*, v. 23; Magendie's *Précis*, ii. 509; and C. James, *Gazette Médicale*, 27 Avril, 1844.

<sup>d</sup> *Comptes Rendus*, Oct. 1841.

impermeable coating of strong glue, suet, and resin, that the animals died very soon afterwards, and, they thought, by a process of asphyxia in consequence of the transpiration from the skin being prevented. In these experiments, they found, to their surprise, that the temperature of the animals, instead of rising, fell considerably. Thus, the temperature of the first rabbit, before it was shaved and covered with the impermeable coating, was  $38^{\circ}$  centigrade; but immediately after the coating was dry, the temperature of the muscles of the thigh and breast had fallen to  $24.5^{\circ}$  centigrade. In another rabbit, the coating on which was put on with more care,—as soon as the coating was dried, the temperature was found to have fallen so much that it was only three degrees above that of the surrounding atmosphere, which was on that day  $17^{\circ}$  centigrade. An hour after this, the animal died. These experiments—and they have been repeated with like results by Magendie<sup>a</sup>—clearly exhibit the importance of the functions executed by the skin. Dr. Carpenter<sup>b</sup> thinks they place in a very striking point of view the importance of the cutaneous surface as a respiratory organ, and enable us to understand how, when the aerating power of the lungs is nearly destroyed by disease, the heat of the body is kept up to its natural standard by the action of the skin. “A valuable therapeutic indication, also,” he adds, “is derivable from the knowledge which we thus gain of the importance of the cutaneous respiration; for it leads us to perceive the desirableness of keeping the skin moist in those febrile diseases in which there is great heat and dryness of the surface, since aeration cannot properly take place through a dry membrane.”

Dr. Edwards, in his experiments on the influence of physical agents on life, found, that warm-blooded animals have less power of producing heat, after they have been exposed for some time to an elevated temperature, as in summer, whilst the opposite effect occurs in winter. He instituted a series of experiments, which consisted in exposing birds to the influence of a freezing mixture, first in February, and afterwards in July and August, and observing in what degree they were cooled by remaining in this situation for equal lengths of time; the result of which was, that the same kind of animal was cooled six or eight times as much in the summer as in the winter months. This principle he presumes to be of great importance in maintaining the regularity of the temperature at the different seasons; even more so than evaporation, the effect of which, in this respect, he thinks, has been greatly exaggerated. From several experiments on yellow-hammers, made at different periods in the course of the year, it would result, that the averages of their temperature ranged progressively upwards from the depth of winter to the height of summer, within the limits of five or six degrees of Fahrenheit, and the contrary was observed in the fall of the year. Hence, Dr. Edwards infers, and with every probability, that the temperature of man experiences a similar fluctuation.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, 6 Dec. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Human Physiology*, § 726, Lond. 1842. See, also, Dr. R. Willis, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, No. 56.

<sup>c</sup> *De l'Influence des Agens Physiques*, p. 489; and Hodgkin and Fisher's translation, Lond. 1832.

When exposed to high atmospheric temperature, the ingenuity of man has to be as much exerted as in the opposite circumstances. The clothing must be duly regulated according to physical principles,\* and perfect quietude be observed, so that undue activity of any of the organs that materially influence the disengagement of animal heat may be prevented. It is only within limits, that this refrigerating action is sufficient. At a certain degree, the transpiration is inadequate, the temperature of the animal rises, and death supervenes.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### SECRETION.

WE have yet to describe an important and multiple function, which also takes place in the intermediate system—in the very tissue of our organs—and which separates from the blood the various humours of the body. This is the function of *secretion*,—a term literally signifying *separation*, and which has been applied both to the operation and the product. Thus, the liver is said to separate the bile from the blood by an action of secretion, and the bile is said to be a secretion.

The organs that execute the various secretory operations differ greatly from each other. They have, however, been grouped by anatomists into three classes, each of which will require a general notice.

#### 1. ANATOMY OF THE SECRETORY APPARATUS.

The secretory organs have been divided into the *exhalant*, the *follicular*, and the *glandular*.

The remarks made respecting the *exhalant vessels* under the head of Nutrition will render it unnecessary to allude, in this place, to any of the apocryphal descriptions of them, especially as their very existence is supposititious. Many, indeed, imagine them to be nothing more than the minute radicles of ordinary arteries.

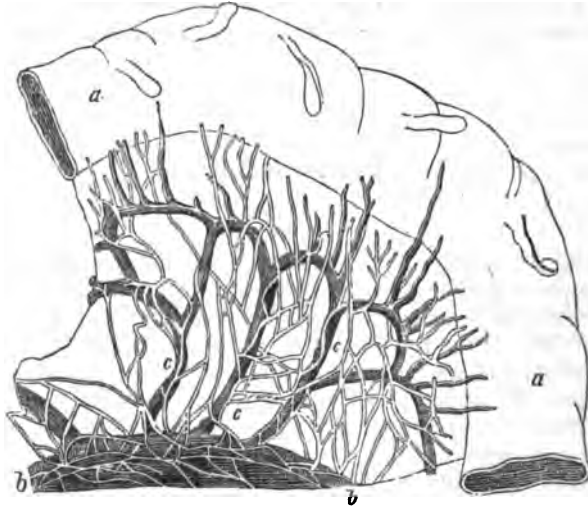
The *follicle* or *crypt* has the form of an ampulla or vesicle, and is situate in the substance of the skin and mucous membranes; secreting a fluid for the purpose of lubricating those parts. In the exhalant vessel, the secreted fluid passes immediately from the blood-vessel, without being received into any excretory duct; and, in the follicle, there is essentially no duct specially destined for the excretion of the humour. The follicle is membranous and vascular, having an internal cavity into which the secretion is poured; and the product is excreted upon the surface beneath which it is situate, either by a central aperture, or by a very short duct—if duct it can be called—generally termed a *lacuna*.

The *gland* is of a more complex structure than the last. It consists of an artery which conveys blood to it; of an intermediate body,

\* See the chapter on Clothing in the author's *Human Health*, Philadelphia, 1844.

—the *gland*, properly so called,—and of an excretory duct to carry off the secreted fluid, and to pour it on the surface of the skin or mucous membrane. The blood-vessel, that conveys to the gland the material from which the secretion has to be effected, enters the organ,

Fig. 240.



*Secreting Arteries, and Nerves of Intestines.*

*a. a.* A portion of intestine. *b. b.* Part of aorta. *c. c. c.* Nerves following branches of aorta to supply intestine.

at times, by various branches; at others, by a single trunk, and ramifies in the tissue of the gland; communicating at its extremities with the origins of the veins and of the excretory ducts. These ducts arise by fine radicles at the part where the arterial ramifications terminate; and they unite to form larger and less numerous canals, until they terminate in one large duct, as in the pancreas; or in several, as in the lachrymal gland; the duct generally leaving the gland at the part where the blood-vessel enters. Of this we have a good exemplification in the kidney.

The pavement and the cylinder epithelium, as well as all the intermediate forms, are met with in the different glands. These are not necessarily a continuation of that of the cutaneous system; on the contrary, the epithelium of the latter is often seen changing its form at its entrance into the gland.\*

Besides the vessels above mentioned, veins exist, which communicate with the vessels that convey blood to the gland, both for the formation of the humour and the nutrition of the organ, and which return the residuary blood to the heart. Lymphatic vessels are likewise there; and nerves,—which proceed from the ganglionic system,—form a network around the secreting arteries, as in Fig. 240, ac-

\* Mandl, *Manuel d'Anatomie Générale*, p. 450. Paris, 1843.

company them into the interior of the organ, and terminate, like them, invisibly. Bordeu<sup>a</sup> was of opinion, that the glands, judging from the parotid, are largely supplied with nerves. The nerves, however, do not all belong to it, some merely crossing it in their course to other parts. Bichat,<sup>b</sup> from the small number sent to the liver, was induced to draw opposite conclusions to those of Bordeu.

These may be looked upon as the great components of the glandular structure. They are bound together by cellular membrane, and have generally an outer envelope. The intimate texture of these organs has been a topic of much speculation. It is generally considered, that the final ramifications of the arterial vessels, with the radicles of the veins and excretory ducts, and the final ramifications of the lymphatic vessels and nerves, form so many small lobules, composed of minute, granular masses. Such, indeed is the appearance the texture presents, when examined by the naked eye. Each lobule is conceived to contain a final ramification of the vessel or vessels that convey blood to the organ, a nerve, a vein, a lymphatic, and an excretory duct,—with cellular tissue binding them together. When the organ has an external membrane, it usually forms a sheath to the various vessels. The lobated structure is not equally apparent in all the glands. It is well seen in the pancreas, and in the salivary and lachrymal. The precise mode in which the blood-vessel, from the blood of which the secretion is effected, communicates with the excretory duct, does not admit of detection. Some have supposed, that between the termination of the blood-vessel and the commencement of the duct, a secretory vessel, or a spongy tissue specially charged with the function, exists, which conveys the secreted humour into the excretory duct. Of this, however, we have no evidence. Professor Müller<sup>c</sup> maintains, that the glandular structure consists essentially of a duct with a blind extremity, on whose parietes plexuses of blood-vessels ramify, from which the secretions are immediately produced,—a view which is confirmed by the pathological appearances, in a case of disease of the portal system, that fell under the author's observation, and is referred to under the Secretion of Bile. The opinion of Malpighi<sup>d</sup> was similar. He affirmed that such glands as the liver are composed of very minute bodies, called *acini*, from their resemblance to the stones of grapes; that these acini are hollow internally, and are covered externally by a network of blood-vessels; and that these minute blood-vessels pour into the cavities of the acini the secreted fluid, from which it is subsequently taken up by the excretory ducts. Ruysch,<sup>e</sup> however, held, that the acini of Malpighi are merely convoluted vessels, and that they are continuous with the excretory ducts. In Malpighi's view, the secretory organ is a

<sup>a</sup> Sur les Glandes, in Œuvres Complètes, par M. Richerand, Paris, 1818.

<sup>b</sup> Anat. Général. tom. ii.

<sup>c</sup> De Glandular. Secernent. Structura Penitiori, &c., Lips. 1830; or the English edit. by Mr. Solly, Lond. 1839.

<sup>d</sup> Opera Omnia, &c., p. 300, Lugd. Batav. 1687.

<sup>e</sup> Epist. Anatom. quæ respondet Viro Clarissimo Hermann. Boerhaav. p. 45, Lugd. Batav. 1722.

mere collection of follicles; in Ruysch's, simply an exhalant membrane variously convoluted. "The chief, if not the only difference," says a popular writer,\* "between the secreting structure of glands and that of simple surfaces, appears to consist in the different number and the different arrangement of their capillary vessels. The actual secreting organ is in both cases the same,—capillary blood-vessel; and it is uncertain whether either its peculiar arrangement, or greater extent in glandular texture, be productive of any other effect than that of furnishing the largest quantity of blood-vessels within the smallest space. Thus convoluted and packed up, secreting organ may be procured to any amount that may be required, without the inconvenience of bulk and weight."<sup>b</sup>

It is manifest that the simplest form of the secretory apparatus consists of simple capillary vessel, and animal membrane; and that the follicles and glands are structures of a more complex organization, but still essentially identical; all perhaps—as will be seen presently—executing their functions by means of cell agency. Some of the glands, as the lacteal and salivary, are granular in their arrangement; others, as the spermatic and urinary, consist of convoluted tubes.

## 2. PHYSIOLOGY OF SECRETION.

The uncertainty which rests upon the intimate structure of secreting organs, and upon the mode in which the different blood-vessels communicate with the commencement of the excretory duct, envelopes the function, executed by those parts, in obscurity. We see the pancreatic artery pass to the pancreas, ramify in its tissue, become capillary, and escape detection; and we see other vessels becoming larger and larger, and emptying themselves into vessels of greater magnitude, until, ultimately, all the secreted humour is contained in one large duct, which passes onwards and discharges its fluid into the small intestine. Yet if we follow the pancreatic artery as far back as the eye can carry us, even when aided by glasses of considerable magnifying power, or if we trace back the pancreatic duct as far as practicable, we find, in the former vessel, always arterial blood, and in the latter, always pancreatic juice. It must, consequently, be between the part at which the artery ceases to be visible, and at which the pancreatic duct becomes so, that secretion is effected; and we cut the knot by asserting, that it occurs in the very tissue, parenchyma, or in the capillary system of the secreting organ. Conjecture, in the absence of positive knowledge, has been busy, at all times, in attempting to explain the mysterious agency by which we find such various humours separated from the same fluid; and, according as chemical, or mechanical, or exclusively vital doctrines have prevailed in physiology, the function has been referred to one or other of those agencies. The general belief, amongst the physiologists of the

\* Dr. Southwood Smith, in *Animal Physiology*, p. 115; *Library of Useful Knowledge*, Lond. 1829.

<sup>b</sup> See Béclard, in art. *Glande*, *Dict. de Méd.* x. 256, Paris, 1824; and Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 649, London, 1842.



sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, was, that each gland possesses a peculiar kind of fermentation, which assimilates to its own nature the blood passing through it. The notion of fermentation was, indeed, applied to most of the vital phenomena. It is now totally abandoned, owing to its being purely imaginary, and inconsistent with all our ideas of the vital operations. When this notion had passed away, and the fashion of accounting for physiological phenomena on mechanical principles usurped its place, the opinion prevailed, that the secretions are effected through the glands as through filters. To admit of this mechanical result, it was maintained, that all the secreted fluids exist ready formed in the blood, and that, when they respectively arrive at the different secretory organs, they pass through, and are received by the excretory ducts. Descartes<sup>a</sup> and Leibnitz<sup>b</sup> were warm supporters of this mechanical doctrine, although their views differed materially with regard to the precise nature of the operation. Descartes supposed, that the particles of the various humours are of different shapes, and that the pores of the glands have respectively a corresponding figure; so that each gland permits those particles only to pass through it which have the shape of its pores. Leibnitz, on the other hand, likened the glands to filters, which had their pores saturated with their own peculiar substance, so that they admitted this substance to pass through them, and excluded all others,—as paper, saturated with oil, prevents the filtration of water. The mechanical doctrine of secretion was taught by Malpighi and by Boerhaave,<sup>c</sup> and it continued to prevail even till the time of Haller. All the secretions were conceived to be ready formed in the blood, and the glands were looked upon as the sieves or strainers to convey off the appropriate fluids or humours. In this view of the subject, all secretion was a transudation through the coats of the vessels,—particles of various sizes passing through pores adapted to them.<sup>d</sup>

The mechanical doctrine of transudation, in this shape, is founded upon supposititious data; and the whole facts and arguments are so manifestly defective, that no refutation is necessary. It is now, indeed, wholly abandoned. MM. Magendie and Fodéra have, however, revived the mechanical doctrine of late years, but under an essentially different form; and one applicable especially to the exhalations. The former gentleman,<sup>e</sup> believing that many of the exhalations exist ready formed in the blood, thinks that the character of the exhaled fluid is dependent upon the physical arrangement of the small vessels, and his views repose upon the following experiments. If, in the dead body, we inject warm water into an artery passing to a serous membrane, as soon as the current is established from the artery to the vein, a multitude of minute drops may be observed oozing through the membrane, which speedily evaporate. If, again, a solution of gelatin, coloured with vermilion, be injected into the vessels, it will often happen, that the gelatin is deposited around the cerebral

<sup>a</sup> *Tractatus de Homine*, p. 18, Amstel. 1677.

<sup>b</sup> Haller, *Element. Physiol.* vii. 3.

<sup>c</sup> *Prælectiones Academicæ*, &c. edit. A. Haller, § 253, Gotting. 1740-1743.

<sup>d</sup> Mascagni, *Nova per Poros Inorganicos Secretionem Theoria*. Rom. 1793, tom. ii.

<sup>e</sup> *Précis*, &c. edit. cit. ii. 444.

convolutions, and in the anfractuositities, without the colouring matter escaping from the vessels, whilst the latter is spread over the external and internal surfaces of the choroid. If, again, linseed oil, also coloured with vermilion, form the matter of the injection, the oil, devoid of colouring matter, is deposited in the articulations that are furnished with large synovial capsules; no transudation takes place at the surface of the brain, or in the interior of the eye. Magendie asks, if these be not instances of true secretion taking place *post mortem*, and evidently dependent upon the physical arrangement of the small vessels; and whether it be not extremely probable, that the same arrangement must, in part at least, preside over exhalation during life? Fodéra,\* to whose experiments on the imbibition of tissues we had occasion to allude under the head of Absorption, embraces the views of Magendie, and so does Valentin.<sup>b</sup> If the vessels of a dead body, Fodéra remarks, be injected, the substance of the injection is seen oozing through the vessels; and if an artery and a vein be exposed in a living animal, a similar oozing through the parietes is observable. This is more manifest if the trunk, whence the artery originates, be tied,—the fluid being occasionally bloody. If the jugular veins be tied, not only does œdema occur in the parts above the ligatures but there is an increase of the salivary secretion. It is not necessary to adduce the various experiments of Fodéra relating to this topic, or those of Harlan, Lawrence and Coates, or of Dutrochet, Faust, Mitchell, and others. They are of precisely the same character as those that we have previously described regarding the imbibition of tissues; for transudation is only imbibition or soaking from within to without: Magendie and Fodéra, indeed, conclude, that a primary physical cause of exhalation is the same as that of absorption,—namely, imbibition.

Another physical cause, adduced by Magendie, is the pressure experienced by the blood in the circulatory system, which, he conceives, contributes powerfully to cause the more aqueous part to pass through the coats of the vessels. If water be forcibly injected, by means of a syringe, into an artery, all the surfaces, to which the vessel is distributed, as well as the larger branches and the trunk itself, exhibit the injected fluid oozing in greater abundance according to the force exerted in the injection. He farther remarks, that if water be injected into the veins of an animal, in sufficient quantity to double or treble the natural amount of blood, a considerable distension of the circulatory organs is produced; and, consequently, the pressure, experienced by the circulating fluid, is largely augmented. If any serous membrane be now examined,—as the peritoneum,—a serous fluid is observed issuing rapidly from its surface, which accumulates in the cavity, and produces a true dropsy under the eyes of the experimenter, and, occasionally, the colouring part of the blood transudes at the surface of certain organs, as the liver, spleen, &c. Hamberger, again, broached the untenable physical hypothesis, that each secreted humour

\* Magendie's *Journal de Physiologie*, iii. 35; and *Recherches, &c. sur l'Absorption et l'Exhalation*, Paris, 1824.

<sup>b</sup> *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, Bd. 1, s. 601; and Mr. Paget's *Report on Anatomy and Physiology*, Jan., 1845, p. 256.

is deposited in its proper secretory organ, by virtue of its specific gravity.<sup>a</sup>

It is obvious, that all these speculations proceed upon the belief, that the exhalations exist ready formed in the blood; and that, consequently, the act of secretion, so far as concerns them, is one of separation or of discerning—not of fresh formation. That this is the case with the more aqueous secretions is probable, and not impossible with regard to the rest. Organic chemistry is subject to more difficulties in the way of analysis than inorganic; and it can be readily understood, that in a fluid so heterogeneous as the blood the discovery of any distinct humour may be impracticable. Of course, the elements of every fluid, as well as solid, must be contained in it; and we have already seen, that not merely the inorganic elements, but the organic, or compounds of organization, have been detected by the labours of Chevreul and others. There are indeed, some singular facts connected with this subject. MM. Prévost and Dumas,<sup>b</sup> having removed the kidneys in cats and dogs, and afterwards analyzed the blood, found urea in it—the characteristic element of urine. This principle was contained in greater quantity, the longer the period that had elapsed after the operation; whilst it could not be detected in the blood, where the kidneys existed. The experiment was soon afterwards repeated by Vauquelin and Ségalas<sup>c</sup> with the same results. The latter introduced urea into the veins of an animal, whose kidneys were untouched; he was unable to detect the principle in the blood; but the urinary secretion was largely augmented after the injection. Whence he concludes that urea is an excellent diuretic. Subsequently, MM. Gmelin and Tiedemann, in association with M. Mitscherlich,<sup>d</sup> arrived, experimentally, at the same conclusions as MM. Prévost and Dumas. The existence of urea in the fluid ejected from the stomach of the animal was rendered probable, but there were no traces of it in the fæces or the bile. The animal died the day after the extirpation of the second kidney. They were totally unable to detect either urea or sugar of milk in the healthy blood of the cow. These circumstances would favour the idea, that certain of the secretions may be formed in the blood, and may simply require the intervention of a secreting organ to separate them;<sup>e</sup> but the mode in which such separation is effected is entirely inexplicable under the doctrine of simple mechanical filtration, or transudation. It is unlike any physical process which can be imagined. The doctrines of filtration and transudation can apply only to those exhalations in which the humour has undergone no apparent change; and it is obviously impossible to specify these, in the imperfect state of our means of analysis. In the ordinary aqueous secretions, simple transudation may embrace the whole process; and, therefore, it is unnecessary to have recourse to any other explanation; especially after the experiments instituted by

<sup>a</sup> See Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iii. 455, Paris, 1829; and Richerand, *Elémens de Physiologie*, 13eme édit. par M. Bérard aîné, p. 176, Bruxelles, 1832.

<sup>b</sup> *Annales de Chimie*, tom. xxii. and xxxiii. 90.

<sup>c</sup> Magendie, *Précis*, &c., ii. 478.

<sup>d</sup> Tiedemann und Treviranus, *Zeitschrift für Physiol.*, B. v. Heft i.; and *Brit. and For. Med. Review*, p. 592, for April, 1836.

<sup>e</sup> Dr. W. Philip, in *Lond. Med. Gazette* for March 25th, 1837, p. 952.

Magendie, supported by pathological observations in which there has been partial œdema of the legs, accompanied by more or less complete obliteration of the veins of the infiltrated part,—the vessels being obstructed by fibrinous coagula, or compressed by circumjacent tumours. It is obvious, that ascites or dropsy of the lower belly may be frequently occasioned by obstruction of the portal circulation in the liver, and that in this way we may account for the frequency with which we find a union of hydropic and hepatic affections in the same individual. The same pathological doctrine, founded on direct observation, has been extended to phlegmasia dolens or swelled leg; an affection occurring in the puerperal state, and which has often been found connected with obstruction in the great veins that convey the blood back from the lower extremity. It may not, consequently, be wide of the truth—if not wholly accurate—to consider the secretions, with Dr. Billing,\* to be “vital transudations from the capillaries into the excretory ducts of the glands, by pores invisible to our senses, even when aided by the most perfect optical instruments.”

The generality of physiologists have regarded the more complex secretions—the follicular and the glandular—as the results of chemical action; and under the view, that these secretions do not exist ready formed in the blood, and that the elements alone are contained in that fluid, it is impossible not to admit that chemical agency must be exerted. In support of the chemical hypothesis, which has appeared under various forms,—some, as Keill,<sup>b</sup> presuming that the secretions are formed in the blood, before they arrive at the place appointed for secretion; others, that the change is effected in the glands themselves,—the fact of the formation of a number of substances from a very few elements, provided these be united in different proportions, has been adduced. For example: take the elementary bodies, oxygen and azote. These, in one proportion, form atmospheric air; in another, nitrous oxide; in another, nitric oxide; in a fourth, hyponitrous acid; in a fifth, nitrous acid; in a sixth, nitric acid, &c., substances which differ as much as the various secretions differ from each other and from the blood. Many of the compounds of organization likewise exhibit, by their elementary composition, that but a slight change is necessary, in order that they may be converted into each other. Dr. Prout<sup>c</sup> has exhibited this close alliance between three substances—urea, lithic acid, and sugar—and has shown how they may be converted into each other, by the addition or subtraction of single elements of their constituents. Urea is composed of two atoms of hydrogen, and one of carbon, oxygen, and azote respectively; by removing one of the atoms of hydrogen and the atom of azote, it is converted into sugar; by adding to it an additional atom of carbon, into lithic acid. Dr. Bostock,<sup>d</sup>—who is disposed to push the application of chemistry to the explanation of the functions as far as possible,—to aid us in conceiving how a variety of substances may be produced from a single compound, by the interven-

\* First Principles of Medicine, Amer. edit., p. 55, Philad. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Tentamina Medico-Physica, iv.; and Haller, Element. Physiol., &c., vii. 3.

<sup>c</sup> Medico-chirurg. Transact., viii. 540.

<sup>d</sup> Physiol., 3d edit., p. 519, Lond. 1836.

tion of physical causes alone, supposes the case of a quantity of the materials adapted for the vinous fermentation being allowed to flow from a reservoir, through tubes of various diameters, and with various degrees of velocity. "If we were to draw off portions of this fluid in different parts of its course, or from tubes, which differed in their capacity, we should, in the first instance, obtain a portion of unfermented syrup; in the next, we should have a fluid in a state of incipient fermentation; in a third, the complete vinous liquor; while, in a fourth, we might have acetous acid." Any explanation, however, founded upon this loose analogy, is manifestly too physical: Dr. Bostock admits this, for he subsequently remarks, that "if we adopt the chemical theory of secretion, we must conceive of it as originating in the vital action of the vessels, which enables them to transmit the blood, or certain parts of it, to the various organs or structures of the body, where it is subjected to the action of those reagents which are necessary to the production of these changes." The admission of such vital agency, in some shape, seems to be indispensable.

Attempts have been made to establish secretion as a nervous action, and numerous arguments and experiments have been brought forward in support of the position. That many of the secretions are affected by the condition of the mind is known to all. The act of crying, in evidence of joy or sorrow; the augmented action of the salivary glands at the sight of pleasant food; the increased secretion of the kidney during fear or anxiety, and the experimental confirmation, by Mr. Hunter, of the truth of the common assertion—that the she-ass gives milk no longer than the impression of the foal is on her mind,—the skin of her foal, thrown over the back of another, and frequently brought near her, being sufficient to renew the secretion;—sufficiently indicate, that the organs of secretion can be influenced through the nervous system in the same manner as the functions of nutrition and calorification.\*

The discovery of galvanism naturally suggested it as an important agent in the process,—or rather suggested, that the nervous fluid strongly resembles it. This conjecture seems to have been first hazarded by Berzelius, and by Sir Everard Home;<sup>b</sup> and, about the same time, an experiment was made by Dr. Wollaston,<sup>c</sup> which he conceived to throw light upon the process. He took a glass tube, two inches high, and three-quarters of an inch in diameter; and closed it at one extremity with a piece of bladder. He then poured into the tube a little water, containing  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of its weight of muriate of soda, moistened the bladder on the outside, and placed it upon a piece of silver. On curving a zinc wire so that one of its extremities touched the piece of metal, and the other dipped into the liquid to the depth of an inch, the outer surface of the bladder immediately indicated the presence of pure soda; so that, under this feeble electric influence,

\* For several examples of the same kind, see Fletcher's *Rudiments of Physiology*, part ii. b, p. 10, Edinb. 1836; Burdach, *Physiologie*, u. s. w., § 522; Dr. A. Combe, on *Infancy*, London and Philad. 1841; and Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 427, 428, London, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Lectures on Comp. Anat., iii. 16, London, 1816; and v. 154, London, 1828.

<sup>c</sup> *Philosoph. Mag.* xxxiii. 438.

the muriate of soda was decomposed, and the soda, separated from the acid, passed through the bladder. M. Fodéra<sup>a</sup> performed a similar experiment, and found, that whilst ordinary transudation frequently required an hour before it was evidenced, it was instantaneously exhibited under the galvanic influence. On putting a solution of prussiate of potassa into the bladder of a rabbit, forming a communication with the solution by means of a copper wire; and placing on the outside, a cloth soaked in a solution of sulphate of iron, to which an iron wire was attached; he found, by bringing these wires into communication with the galvanic pile, that the bladder or the cloth was suddenly coloured blue, according as the galvanic current set from without to within, or from within to without;—that is, according as the iron wire was made to communicate with the positive pole, and the copper wire with the negative, or conversely. But it is not necessary that there should be any communication with the galvanic pile. If an animal membrane, as a bladder containing iron filings, be immersed in a solution of sulphate of copper, the sulphuric acid will penetrate the membrane to reach the iron, with which it forms a sulphate, and the metallic copper will be deposited on the lower surface of the membrane;<sup>b</sup> the animal membrane in such case, offering no obstacle to the action of the ordinary chemical affinities.

With some of the chemical physiologists, there has been a disposition to resolve secretion into a mere play of electric affinities. Thus, M. Donné<sup>c</sup> affirms, that from the whole cutaneous surface is secreted an acid humour, whilst the digestive tube, except in the stomach, secretes an alkaline mucus; and hence, he infers, that the external *acid*, and the internal *alkaline* membranes of the human body represent the two poles of a pile, the electrical effects of which are appreciable by the galvanometer. On placing one of the conductors of the instrument in contact with the mucous membrane of the mouth, and the other in contact with the skin, the magnetic needle, he affirms, deviated fifteen, twenty, and even thirty degrees, according to its sensibility; and its direction indicated, that the mucous or alkaline membrane took negative, and the cutaneous membrane, positive electricity. He further asserts, that, between the *acid* stomach and the *alkaline* liver, extremely powerful electrical currents are formed. These experiments do not, however, aid us materially in our solution of the phenomena of secretion. They exhibit merely electric phenomena dependent upon difference of chemical composition. This is, indeed, corroborated by the experiments of M. Donné himself on the secretions of vegetables. He observed electrical phenomena of the same kind in them; but, he says, electric currents in vegetables are not produced by the acid or alkaline conditions of the parts as in animals, the juice of fruits being always more or less acid. Experiments of M. Biot, however, show, that the juices, which arrive by the pedicle,

<sup>a</sup> Magendie's *Journal de Physiologie*, iii. 35; and *Recherches, &c., sur l'Absorption et l'Exhalation*, Paris, 1824.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Robert E. Rogers, in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, p. 291, for August, 1836. See, also, the observations of Prof. Mitchell and Dr. Draper, elsewhere referred to.

<sup>c</sup> *Annales de Chimie, &c.*, lvii. 400; and *Journal Hebdomad.*, Fév. 1834.

are modified in some part of the fruit, and M. Donné thinks it is perhaps to this difference in the chemical composition of the juices of the two extremities, that the electrical phenomena are to be attributed. The effects of the section of the pneumogastric nerves on the functions of digestion and respiration have been given elsewhere, at some length. It was there stated, that when digestion was suspended by their division, Dr. Wilson Philip<sup>a</sup> was led to ascribe the suspension to the secretion of the gastric juice having been arrested; an opinion, which Sir B. Brodie had been induced to form previously, from the results of experiments, which showed, that the secretion of urine is suspended by the removal or destruction of the brain; and that when an animal is destroyed by arsenic, after the division of the pneumogastric nerves, all the usual symptoms are produced, except the peculiar secretion from the stomach. Sir B. Brodie did not draw the conclusion, that the nervous influence is absolutely necessary to secretion, but that it is a step in the process, and the experiments of Magendie<sup>b</sup> on the effect of the division of the nerve of the fifth pair on the nutritive secretion of the cornea, confirm the position. We have, indeed, numerous evidences, that the nervous system cannot be indispensable to secretion. In all animals, this power must exist, yet there are some in which no nervous system is apparent. Dr. Bostock<sup>c</sup> has given references, in a note, to cases of monstrous or deformed fœtuses, born with many of their organs fully developed, yet where there was no nervous system. It may be said, however, that, in all these cases, an organic nervous system must have existed; but setting aside the cases of animals, we have the most indisputable testimony of the existence of secretion in the vegetable, in which there is no nervous system, or, at the most, a rudimental one; yet the function is accomplished as perfectly, and perhaps in as multiple a manner, as in man. It is manifest, therefore, that this is one of the vital actions occurring in the very tissue of organs, of which we have no more knowledge than we have of the capillary and nutritive actions in general. All that we know is, that in particular organs various humours are secreted from the blood, some of which can be detected in that fluid, others not.

The doctrine of developement by cells has been applied to secretion. It has been elsewhere shown how cells are considered by Mr. Goodsir<sup>d</sup> to effect the work of absorption. Secretion, according to him, is accomplished in a similar manner. It is essentially a function of nucleated cells,—the cells endowed with this property possessing a peculiar organic power by virtue of which they can draw into their interior certain kinds of materials varying according to the nature of the fluid which they are destined to secrete. Some cells have merely to separate certain ingredients from the surrounding medium; others have to elaborate within themselves matters that do not exist as such in the nutritive medium. Although secreting cells thus differ in the

<sup>a</sup> London Medical Gazette for March 18, and March 25, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 489.

<sup>c</sup> Physiology, edit. cit. p. 525. Lond. 1836.

<sup>d</sup> Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1842. See, also, Brit. and For. Medical Review, Oct. 1842, p. 566; Carpenter, *ibid.* Jan. 1843, p. 279; Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 507, Paris, 1843; and Mr. Goodsir, Anatomical and Pathological Observations. Edinburgh, 1845.

nature of the fluid which they secrete, their structure seems to be nearly the same in all cases,—each consisting, like other primitive cells, of a nucleus, cell-wall, and cavity. The nucleus appears to be both the reproductive organ by which new cells are generated, and the agent for separating and preparing the secreted material. The cell-cavity seems chiefly destined to contain the secreted fluid until ready to be discharged; at which time the cell, then matured, bursts and discharges its contents into the outer cellular space on which it is situate, or upon a free surface, as the case may be.

The mode of secretion in glands, of which Mr. Goodsir takes the testicle of the *squalus cornubicus* as a type, appears to him to be as follows. Around the extremities of the minute ducts of the glands are developed acini or primary nucleated cells, each of which, as it increases in size, has generated within it secondary cells, the product of its nucleus. The cavity of the parent cell does not communicate with the duct on which it is situate until its contents are fully matured, at which time the cell-wall bursts or dissolves away, and its contents are discharged into the duct. From this constant succession of growth and solution of cells it results, that the whole parenchyma of a gland is continually passing through stages of development, maturity, and atrophy,—the rapidity of the process being in proportion to the activity of the secretion. There seems, consequently, in this view of the subject, to be no essential difference between the process of secretion, and the growth of a gland: the same cells are the agents by which both are effected. The parenchyma of glands is chiefly made up of a mass of cells in all stages of development: as these cells individually increase in size, and so constitute their own growth as well as that of the common glandular mass, they are at the same time elaborating within themselves the material of secretion, which, when matured, they discharge, by themselves dissolving away. There are numerous germinal spots or centres in a gland, from which acini or primary cells are developed. The true fluid of secretion, in Mr. Goodsir's opinion, is not the product of the parent cell of the acinus, but of its included mass of secondary cells, which themselves become primary secreting cells, and form the material of secretion in their cavities. In some cases, these secondary cells pass out entire from the parent cell, constituting a form of secretion in which the cells possess the power of becoming more fully developed after being discharged and cast into the duct or cavity of the gland.<sup>a</sup>

Mr. Goodsir considers growth and secretion to be identical—the same process under different circumstances,—a view, indeed, which had already been embraced by others;<sup>b</sup> and which, it appears to the author, should be adopted. It must be recollected, that the blood-vessels, like the absorbents, are shut sacs; and therefore the materials for nutrition and secretion must pass either through them in the manner suggested by Mr. Goodsir, or by transudation. Transudation, however, would seem to be mainly, if not wholly, applicable to tenuous fluids

<sup>a</sup> Ranking's Abstract of the Medical Sciences, January to June, 1845, Amer. edit. p. 261. New York, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Mr. Bowman, Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, part xxiv. p. 501, July, 1842.



only; whilst every solid in the body must be nourished by materials obtained from the blood. The agency of cells in nutrition and secretion seems therefore probable. Mr. Addison<sup>a</sup> has suggested, that these cells are not developed in the organs of nutrition and secretion at the expense of materials supplied by the blood; and that they are neither more nor less than the colourless corpuscles of the blood, which elaborate these products whilst still floating in its current, and then escape from the vessels. It is not easy, however, to comprehend, that corpuscles, apparently identical, should exist in the blood charged with the different properties of separating bile, urine, saliva, &c., from the fluid; or that they could escape through the parietes of the containing blood-vessels, and then penetrate the parietes of the excretory ducts to take their place—it has been supposed—as epithelium cells on the lining membrane of these outlets. Moreover, as has been shown elsewhere, there is reason to believe, that the office of the white corpuscles of the blood is the elaboration of fibrin.

In cases of vicarious secretion, we have the singular phenomenon of organs assuming an action for which they were not destined. If the secretion from the kidney, for example, be arrested, urine is occasionally found in the ventricles of the brain, and, at other times, a urinous fluid has been discharged by vomiting or by cutaneous transpiration:<sup>b</sup> the capillaries of these parts must, consequently, have assumed the functions of the kidney, and to this they must have been excited by the presence of urea, or of the elements of the urinary secretion in the blood—a fact, which exhibits the important influence that the condition of the blood must exert on the secretions, and, indeed, on nutrition in general. It is thus that many of our remedial agents, alkalies, the preparations of iodine, &c.,—produce their effects. They first enter the mass of blood, and, by circulating in the capillary system, induce a modification of its functions. There are other cases, again, in which the condition of the blood being natural, the vessels of nutrition may take on morbid action. Of this we have examples in the ossification of organs, which, in the healthy condition, have no osseous constituent; in the deposition of fat in cases of diseased ovaria; and in the altered secretions produced by any source of irritation in a secreting organ.

In describing the physiology of the different secretions, one of three arrangements has usually been adopted; either according to the nature of the secreting organ, the function of the secreted fluid, or its chemical character. The first of these has been followed by Bichat and by Magendie,<sup>c</sup> who have adopted the division into *exhaled*, *follicular*, and *glandular* secretions. It is the arrangement followed by Lepelletier, except that he substitutes the term *perspiratory* for *exhaled*. According to the second, embraced by Boyer,<sup>d</sup> Sabatier,<sup>e</sup> and

<sup>a</sup> The Actual Process of Nutrition on the Living Structure demonstrated by the Microscope, &c., Lond. 1844. See an able notice of Mr. Addison's views, in Brit. and For. Med. Review, July, 1844, p. 96; also, Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, &c., p. 507. Paris, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Haller, Elementa Physiologiæ, lib. vii. a. i. § 9.

<sup>c</sup> Précis de Physiologie, 2de édit. ii. 243. Paris, 1825.

<sup>d</sup> Anatomie, 2de édit. i. 8. Paris, 1803.

<sup>e</sup> Traité Complet d'Anatomie. Paris, 1791.

Adelon,<sup>a</sup> they are divided into *recrementitial* secretions, or such as are taken up by internal absorption and re-enter the circulation; and into *excrementitial*, or such as are evacuated from the body, and constitute the excretions. Some physiologists add a third division—the *recremento-excrementitial*,—in which a part of the humour is absorbed and the remainder ejected. Lastly, the division according to chemical character has been followed, with more or less modification, by Plenck,<sup>b</sup> Richerand,<sup>c</sup> Blumenbach,<sup>d</sup> Young,<sup>e</sup> and Bostock;<sup>f</sup> the last of whom, one of the most recent writers, has eight classes:—the *aqueous*, *albuminous*, *mucous*, *gelatinous*, *fibrinous*, *oleaginous*, *resinous*, and *saline*. To all of these classifications cogent objections might be made. The one we shall follow is the anatomical,—not because it is the most perfect, but because it is the course that has been usually adopted throughout this work.

#### EXHALATIONS.

All the exhalations take place in the areolæ and internal cavities of the body, or from the skin and mucous membranes:—hence their division into *internal* and *external*. The former are *recrementitial*, the latter *recremento-excrementitial*. To the class of *internal exhalations* belong: 1. The serous exhalation. 2. The serous exhalation of the cellular membrane. 3. The adipous exhalation of the cellular membrane. 4. The exhalation of the marrow. 5. The synovial exhalation. 6. The exhalation of the colouring matter of the skin, and of other parts; and 7. The areolar exhalation. To the class of *external exhalations* belong: 1. That of the skin or cutaneous transpiration. 2. The exhalation of the mucous membranes.

#### 1. INTERNAL EXHALATIONS.

##### a. Serous Exhalation.

This is the fluid secreted by the serous membranes that line the various cavities of the body;—as the pleura, pericardium, peritoneum, arachnoid coat of the brain, and tunica vaginalis testis. Rudolphus asserts, that serous membranes are incapable of inflammation, are not vascular, and do not secrete; and that the secretions of shut sacs take place from the subjacent parts, and transude through the serous membranes, which, in his view, are, consequently, a kind of cuticle. In a physiological consideration, it is not of moment whether they resemble the cuticle or not; and anatomically the question only concerns the layer that covers the surface.

Recently, Mr. John Goodsir<sup>b</sup> has presented the following observa-

<sup>a</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. cit. iii. 438.

<sup>b</sup> *The Chemico-Physiological Doctrine of the Fluids, &c.*, translated by Dr. Hooper. Lond. 1797.

<sup>c</sup> *Elémens de Physiologie*, 13ème édit. chap. vi. Bruxelles, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> *Physiology*, by Elliotson, 4th. edit. Lond. 1828.

<sup>e</sup> *Medical Literature*, p. 104. Lond. 1813.

<sup>f</sup> *Physiology*, 3d edit. p. 48. Lond. 1836.

<sup>g</sup> *Grundriss der Physiologie*, 113. See, also, Hodgkin's *Lectures on the Morbid Anatomy of the Serous and Mucous Membranes*, P. i. p. 27. Lond. 1836.

<sup>h</sup> *Anatomical and Pathological Observations*. Edinb. 1845.

tions on the structure of serous membranes. A portion of the human pleura or peritoneum consists, from its free surface inwards, of a single layer of nucleated scales; of a germinal membrane, and of the subserous areolar texture intermixed with occasional elastic fibres. The blood-vessels of the serous membrane ramify in the areolar texture. The germinal membrane seldom shows the lines of junction of its component flattened cells. These appear elongated in the form of ribands, their nuclei or the germinal spots of the membrane being elongated, expanded at one extremity, pointed at the other, and somewhat bent upon themselves; they are bright and crystalline, and may or may not contain smaller cells in the interior. If these germinal centres be the sources of all the scales of the superficial layer, each centre being the source of the scales of its own compartment, then the matter necessary for the formation of these during their development must pass, he conceives, from the capillary vessels to each of the centres, acted on by forces whose centres of action are the germinal spots;—each of the scales, after being detached from its parent centre, deriving its nourishment by its own inherent powers.<sup>a</sup>

From these membranes a fluid is exhaled, which is of an albuminous character, resembling considerably the serum of the blood, except in containing less albumen. M. Donné<sup>b</sup> says it is always alkaline in the healthy state. This is owing to the presence of carbonate or albuminate of soda. It contains 7 or 8 per cent. of albumen and salts. In health, this fluid never accumulates in the cavities; the absorbents taking it up in proportion as it is deposited; but if, from any cause, the exhalants should pour out a larger quantity than usual, whilst the absorbents are not proportionably excited, accumulation may take place; or the same effect may ensue if the exhalants pour out no more than their usual quantity, whilst the absorbents do not possess their due activity. Under either circumstance, we have an accumulation or dropsy. The exhaled fluid probably transudes through the parietes of the arteries, and re-enters the circulation by imbibition through the coats of the veins. If we kill an animal and open it immediately afterwards, this exhalation appears in the form of a halitus or vapour, and the fluid is seen lubricating the free surface of the membrane. This, indeed, appears to be its principal office; by which it favours the motion of the organs upon each other.

The serous exhalations probably differ somewhat in each cavity, or according to the precise structure of the membrane. The difference between the chemical character of the fluid of the dropsy of different cavities would lead to this belief. As a general rule, according to Dr. Bostock,<sup>c</sup> the fluid from the cavity of the abdomen contains the greatest proportion of albumen, and that from the brain the least; but many exceptions occur to this.<sup>d</sup>

#### b. *Serous Exhalation of the Cellular or Areolar Membrane.*

The nature of the primary *cellular, areolar, or fibro-cellular* mem-

<sup>a</sup> Ranking's Abstract, &c., Jan. to June, 1845, p. 261, Amer. edit. New York, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Journal Hebdomad. Février, 1834.

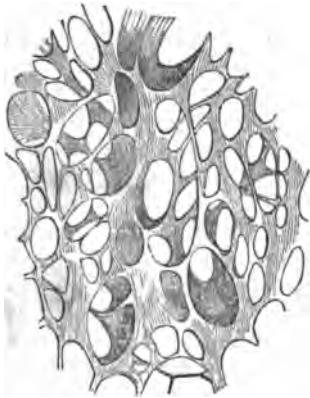
<sup>c</sup> Op. citat. p. 485.

<sup>d</sup> Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, v, 184. Leipz. 1835.

brane has been given in an early part of this work (vol. i. p. 43). As we observe it, it is not properly cellular, but is composed of a network of fibres, and of lamellæ formed by the adhesion of fibres laid side by side; and these interwoven so as to leave numerous interstices and cavities amongst them, having a tolerably free communication with each other.\*

According to Messrs. Todd and Bowman, two kinds of fibrous tissue—the *white* and the *yellow*—may be detected in it,—the *white* presenting itself in the form of inelastic bands, the largest  $\frac{1}{80}$ th of an

Fig. 241.



Portion of Areolar Tissue inflated and dried, showing the general character of its larger meshes; magnified twenty diameters.—Todd and Bowman.

inch in breadth, somewhat wavy in their direction, and marked longitudinally by numerous streaks; and the *yellow* existing in the form of long, single, elastic, branched filaments, with a dark decided border, and disposed to curl when not put upon the stretch. These interlace with the others, but seem to have no continuity of substance with them. They are for the most part between the  $\frac{1}{80}$ th and  $\frac{1}{100}$ th of an inch in thickness; but they are often met with both larger and smaller.

The interstices in the cellular membrane, wherever existing, are kept moist by a serous fluid, analogous to that exhaled from serous membranes, and which appears to have the same uses,—that of facilitating the motion of the lamellæ, or fibres on each other, and consequently of the organs, between which the cellular tissue is placed. When this secretion collects, from the causes mentioned in the last section, the disease, called *œdema* or *anasarca*, is induced.

### c. *Adipous Exhalation of the Cellular Membrane.*

Considerable diversity of opinion has prevailed regarding the precise organ for the secretion of fat. Haller supposed, that the substance exists ready formed in the blood, and that it simply transudes through the pores of the arteries; and Chevreul and others have given some countenance to this opinion, by the circumstance of their having met with fatty matter in that fluid. Anatomists have, likewise, been divided upon the subject of the precise tissue into which the fat is deposited; some believing it to be the ordinary cellular tissue, into which it is dropped by the agency of appropriate vessels; others, as Malpighi<sup>b</sup> and William Hunter,<sup>c</sup> believing in the existence of a pecu-

\* For the histology of the cellular membrane, see Todd and Bowman, *Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of Man*, London, 1842; Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, Amer. edit. by Dr. Clymer, § 638, Philad. 1843; Gerber, *General Anatomy*, by Gulliver, p. 213, London, 1842; and Mandl, *Manuel d'Anatomie*, p. 111, Paris, 1843.

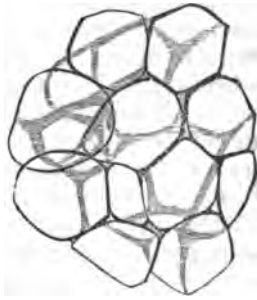
<sup>b</sup> De Omento, Pinguedine, et Adiposis Ductibus, in *Oper.*, London, 1687.

<sup>c</sup> Medical Observations and Inquiries, vol. ii. London, 1757.

liar adipous tissue, consisting, according to Béclard,\* of small bursæ or membranous vesicles, which enclose the fat, and are found in the areolæ of the cellular tissue. These vesicles are said to vary greatly in size: generally, they are round and globular; and, in certain subjects, receive vessels, that are very apparent. They form so many small sacs without apertures, in the interior of which are filaments arranged like septa. In fatty subjects, these adipous vesicles are very perceptible, being attached to the cellular tissue and neighbouring parts by a vascular pedicle.

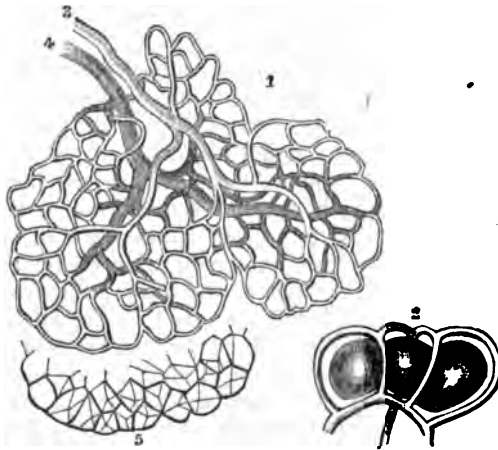
The fat, according to modern histologists, originates from fat-cells, which are usually of a spherical or spheroidal shape, but sometimes, when closely pressed together without the intervention of any intercellular substance, they become polyhedral.<sup>b</sup> The adipous tissue is formed by a membrane of extreme tenuity which forms the vesicle that includes the fat. The membrane is homogeneous and transparent, about the  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of an inch thick, and is moistened by a watery

Fig. 242.



*Fat vesicles, assuming the polyhedral form from pressure against one another. The capillary vessels are not represented.—From the omentum; magnified about 300 diameters.—Todd and Bowman.*

Fig. 243.



*Blood-vessels of Fat Vesicles.*

1. Minute flattened fat-lobule, in which the vessels only are represented. 3. Terminal artery. 4. Primitive vein. 5. Fat vesicles of one border of the lobule, separately represented. Magnified 100 diameters.—2. Plan of the arrangement of capillaries on the exterior of the vesicles: more highly magnified.—Todd and Bowman.

apastomose with one another at the points where these angles meet.

\* Art. Adipeux, in Dictionnaire de Médecine, tom. i.; and Elements of General Anatomy, translated by Togni, p. 126, Philad. 1830.

<sup>b</sup> Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Review, July, 1842, p. 262.

M. Raspail<sup>a</sup> affirms, that there is the most striking analogy between the nature of the adipous granules and that of the amylaceous grains. As in the case of secula, each adipous granule is composed of at least one integument, and an enclosed substance, both of which are as slightly azoted as secula; and both secula and fat are equally inservient to the nutrition of the organs of developement: whenever there is excess of life and activity, the fat is seen to disappear, and whenever there is rest, it accumulates in its reservoirs. If a portion of fat be examined, it is found to consist of an outer vesicle with strong membranous parietes, containing small adipous masses readily separable from each other, each invested with a similar, but slighter, vesicular membrane; and these, again, contain others still more minute, until ultimately we come to the vesicles that invest the adipous granules themselves. Each of these masses adheres, at some point of its surface, to the inner surface of the vesicle that encloses it by a hilum in the same manner as the grain of secula. All the vesicles, but especially the outermost and strongest, have a reddish vascular network on their surface, the vessels of which augment in size as they approach the part where the vesicle is adherent, and there they open into one of the vessels of the larger vesicle that encloses them.

The arrangement of this tissue, as well as the quantity of fat, varies in different parts of the body. It is always found in the orbit, on the sole of the foot, and at the pulps of the fingers and toes. The subcutaneous cellular tissue, and that covering the heart, kidneys, &c., also generally contain it: but it is never met with in the eyelids, scrotum, or within the cranium.<sup>b</sup>

Fat is exhaled by the secretory vessels in a fluid state; but after it is deposited, it becomes more or less solid. According to the researches of Chevreul<sup>c</sup> and Braconnot, human fat is almost always of a yellow colour; inodorous, and composed of two portions;—the one fluid, and the other concrete, which are themselves composed, but in different proportions, of two new immediate principles, to which the former chemist gave the names *elain* or *olein*, and *stearin*, respectively. Subsequently, the organic elements of fat were considered to be *stearin*, *margarin*, and *olein*; the two former, which are solid when separate, being dissolved in the latter at the ordinary temperature of the body. Recent chemistry has, however, shown, that the fat contained in the cells of the adipous tissue is composed of a base of a sweetish taste, thence termed *glycerin*, with stearic, margaric, and oleic acids,—stearin being esteemed a bi-stearite of glycerin; and olein or elain, an oleate of glycerin.<sup>d</sup> These proximate principles are sometimes seen spontaneously separated within the human fat vesicle. The stearin collects in the form of a small star on the

<sup>a</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 183, Paris, 1833.

<sup>b</sup> Geddings, art. Adipose Tissue, in Amer. Cyclop. of Pract. Medicine, part. ii. p. 215, Philad. 1833; and Craigie, art. Adipose Tissue, in Cycl. Anat. and Physiol. part i. p. 56, Lond. 1835.

<sup>c</sup> Recherches Chimiques sur les Corps Gras, &c., Paris, 1823; W. T. Brande, art. Fat, Cyclopæd. Anat. and Physiol. August, 1837, p. 231.

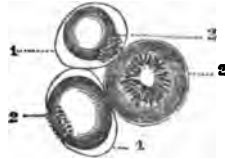
<sup>d</sup> See page 37, vol. i.; and Thomson, Chemistry of Animal Bodies, p. 135, Edinb. 1843.

inner surface of the membrane, as in the marginal figure at 2, 2, 2, the elain occupying the remainder of the vesicle, except where there is an unusually small quantity of fat, when a little aqueous fluid is seen interposed between the elain and the cell-membrane.

It is probable, that chemical analysis would exhibit the fat to vary in different parts of the body, as its sensible properties are manifestly different. Sir Everard Home,<sup>a</sup> on loose analogies and inconclusive arguments, has advanced the opinion, that it is more than probable, that fat is formed in the lower portion of the intestines, and from thence is carried, through the medium of the circulating blood, to be deposited in almost every part of the body. "When there is a great demand for it, as in youth, for carrying on growth, it is laid immediately under the skin, or in the neighbourhood of the abdomen. When not likely to be wanted, as in old age, it is deposited in the interstices of muscular fibres, to make up in bulk for the wasting of these organs." M. de Blainville<sup>b</sup> is of opinion, that fat is derived from venous blood, and that it is exhaled through the coats of the vessels. This opinion he founds on the mode in which the fat is distributed in the omenta along the course of the veins; and he affirms, that he has seen it flow out of the jugular vein in a dead elephant. But this last fact, as Lepelletier<sup>c</sup> has judiciously remarked, proves nothing more than that fat—taken up by the absorbents from the vesicles in which it had been deposited by the exhalants—had been conveyed into the venous blood with other absorbed matters. It in no wise shows, that the venous blood is the pabulum of the secretion, or that the veins accomplish it.

The uses of the fat are both *general* and *local*. The great general use is, by some physiologists, conceived to be,—to serve as a provision in cases of wasting indisposition; when the digestive function is incapacitated for performing its due office, and emaciation is the consequence. In favour of this view, the rapidity with which fat disappears after slight abstinence has been urged, as well as the facts, connected with the torpidity of animals, which are always found to diminish in weight during this state. Professor Mangili, of Pavia, procured two marmots from the Alps, on the 1st of December. The larger weighed 25 Milanese ounces; the smaller only 22½th; on the 3d of January, the larger had lost ¾ths of an ounce, and the smaller ¼th. On the 5th of February, the larger weighed only 22½; the smaller 21. Dr. Monro kept a hedgehog from the month of November to the month of March following, which lost, in the meanwhile, a considerable portion of its weight. On the 25th of December, it weighed 13 ounces and 3 drachms; on the 6th of February, 11 ounces and 7 drachms; and on the 8th of March, 11 ounces and

Fig. 244.



Fat Vesicles from an Emaciated Subject.

1, 1. Cell-membrane. 2, 2. Solid portion collected as a star-like mass, with the elain in connexion with it, but not filling the cell.—(Todd and Bowman.)

<sup>a</sup> Lect. on Comp. Anat. i. 468, Lond. 1814, and vol. vi., Lond. 1828; and Philos. Transact. 1821, p. 34.

<sup>b</sup> De l'Organisation des Animaux, &c., Paris, 1825.

<sup>c</sup> Physiologie Médicale et Philosophique, ii. 496, Paris, 1832.

3 drachms. The loss was 13 grains daily.<sup>a</sup> The local uses of fat are chiefly of a physical character. On the sole of the foot it diminishes the effects of pressure, and its use is the same on the nates: in the orbit, it forms a kind of cushion, on which the eyeball moves with facility; and when in certain limits it gives that rotundity to the frame, which we are accustomed to regard as symmetry. Dr. Fletcher,<sup>b</sup> indeed, considers its principal use to be, to fill up interstices, and thus to give a pleasing contour to the body. In another place, it was observed, that fatty substances are bad conductors of caloric; and hence it may tend to preserve the temperature of the body in cold seasons; a view which is favoured by the fact, that many of the Arctic animals are largely supplied with fat beneath the common integuments; and it has been affirmed, that fat people generally suffer less than lean from the cold of winter.

It is obviously impracticable to estimate, accurately, the total quantity of fat in the body. It has been supposed that, in an adult male of moderate size, it forms  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the whole weight; but it is doubtful whether we ought to regard this as even an approximation; the data being so inadequate. In some cases of polysarcia or obesity, the bulk of the body has been enormous. The case of a girl is detailed, who weighed 256 pounds, when only four years old.<sup>c</sup> A girl, said to be only ten years old, called the "Ohio giantess," was exhibited in Philadelphia, in the year 1844, who was said to weigh 265 pounds. The Lowell Advertiser, of September, 1844, states, that a coloured girl, aged fourteen years, a native of Nassau, New York, died in that city, weighing 500 pounds! A man of the name of Bright, at Malden, England, weighed 728 pounds; and the celebrated Daniel Lambert, of Leicester, England, weighed 739 pounds a little before his death, which occurred in the fortieth year of his age.<sup>d</sup> The circumference of his body was three yards and four inches; of his leg one yard and one inch. His coffin was six feet four inches long; four feet four inches wide; and two feet four inches deep. The public journals of this country<sup>e</sup> have recorded the death of a Mr. Cornelius, who weighed 720 pounds. Dr. Elliotson<sup>f</sup> says he saw a female child, but a year old, who weighed sixty pounds. She had begun to grow fat at the end of the third month. In these cases, the specific gravity of the body may be much less than that of water.<sup>g</sup> It is said, that some time ago there was a fat lighterman, on the river Thames, "who had fallen overboard repeatedly, without any farther inconvenience than that of a good ducking; since though he knew nothing whatever of the art of swimming, he always continued to flounder about like a firkin of butter, till he was picked up."<sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Fleming's *Philosophy of Zoology*, ii. 59, Edinb. 1822.

<sup>b</sup> *Rudiments of Physiology*, part iii. by Dr. Lewins, p. 71, Edinb. 1837.

<sup>c</sup> *Philos. Transact.*, No. 185.

<sup>d</sup> *Good's Study of Medicine*, Class vi. Ord. 1, Gen. 1, Sp. 1.

<sup>e</sup> Philadelphia Public Ledger, October 4, 1841.

<sup>f</sup> *Human Physiology*, London, 1841, P. i. 301; and Fletcher's *Rudiments of Physiology*, Edinburgh, 1835, P. i. p. 123.

<sup>g</sup> For various cases of great obesity, see Choulant, in art. *Fettbereitung*, in Pierer, op. citat. B. 3, s. 53; A. L. Richter, in *Encyclopädisches Wörterbuch der Medicinischen Wissenschaften*, Band. i. s. 733, art. *Adiposia*, Berlin, 1806; and Fletcher's *Rudiments of Physiology*.

<sup>h</sup> Fletcher, op. citat. p. 71.



In some of the varieties of the human family we meet with singular adipous deposits. In the Bosjesman female vast masses of fat accumulate on the buttocks, which give them the most extravagant appearance. The projection of the posterior part of the body, in one subject, according to Mr. Barrow,<sup>a</sup> measured five inches and a half from a line touching the spine. "This protuberance," he remarks, "consisted of fat, and when the woman walked, had the most ridiculous appearance imaginable, every step being accompanied with a quivering and tremulous motion, as if two masses of jelly were attached behind." The "Hottentot Venus," who had several projections, measured more than nineteen inches around the haunches; and the projection of the hips exceeds  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Dr. Somerville<sup>b</sup> found on dissection, that the size of the buttocks arose from a vast mass of fat, interposed between the integuments and muscles, which equalled four fingers' breadth in thickness. It is singular, that, according to the statement of this female, which is corroborated by the testimony of Mr. Barrow, the deposition does not take place till the first pregnancy. Pallas<sup>c</sup> has described a variety of sheep—the *ovis steatopyga* or "fat-buttock,"—which is reared in immense flocks by the pastoral tribes of Asia. In it, a large mass of fat covers the nates and occupies the place of the tail. The protuberance is smooth beneath, and resembles a double hemisphere, when viewed behind; the os coccygis or rump-bone being perceptible to the touch in the notch between the two. They consist merely of fat; and, when very large, shake in walking like the buttocks of the female Bosjesman. Mr. Lawrence<sup>d</sup> remarks, that there are herds of sheep in Persia, Syria, Palestine, and some parts of Africa, in which the tail is not wanting as in the *ovis steatopyga*, but retains its usual length, and becomes loaded with fat.

In the view of Liebig,<sup>e</sup> the abnormous condition, which causes an undue deposition of fat in the animal body, depends on a disproportion between the quantity of carbon in the food, and that of the oxygen absorbed by the skin and lungs. In the normal condition, the quantity of carbon given out is exactly equal to that which is taken in the food, and the body experiences no increase of weight from the accumulation of substances containing much carbon and no azote; but if the supply of highly carbonized food be increased, then the normal state can only be preserved, by exercise and labour, through which the waste of the body is increased, and the supply of oxygen accumulated in the same proportion. The production of fat, Liebig maintains, is always a consequence of a deficient supply of oxygen, for oxygen is absolutely indispensable for the dissipation of the excess of carbon in the food. "This excess of carbon, deposited in the form of fat, is never seen in the Bedouin or in the Arab of the desert, who exhibits with pride to the traveller his lean, muscular, sinewy limbs, altogether free from fat; but in prisons and jails it appears as a puffiness in the inmates, fed, as they are, on a poor and scanty diet: it

<sup>a</sup> Travels, p. 281.

<sup>b</sup> Medico-chirurgical Transactions, vii. 157.

<sup>c</sup> Spicilegia Zoologica, fasc. xi. p. 63.

<sup>d</sup> Lectures on Physiology, Zoology, &c., p. 427, London, 1819.

<sup>e</sup> Animal Chemistry, Webster's edit., p. 85, Cambridge, Mass., 1842.

appears in the sedentary females of oriental countries; and finally it is produced under the well-known conditions of fattening of domestic animals." In accordance, too, with his views of animal heat, already referred to, Liebig considers that in the formation of fat there is a new source of heat. The oxygen set free in the action is given out in combination with carbon and hydrogen; and whether this carbon and hydrogen proceed from the substance that yields the oxygen, or from other compounds, still there must have been generated by this formation of carbonic acid or water as much heat as if an equal weight of carbon or hydrogen had been burned in air or in oxygen gas.

Whether the view of Liebig be admitted or not—it is certain that the circumstances, which favour obesity, are absence of activity and of excitement of all kinds; hence, for the purpose of fattening animals in rural economy, they are kept in entire darkness, to deprive them of the stimulus of light, and to favour sleep and muscular inactivity. Castration—by abolishing one kind of excitability—and the time of life at which the generative functions cease to be exerted, especially in the female, are favourable to the same result.

#### d. *Exhalation of the Marrow.*

A fluid, essentially resembling fat, is found in the cavity of long bones, in the spongy tissue of short bones, and in the areolæ of bones of every kind. This is the *marrow*. The secretory organ is the very delicate membrane which is perceptible in the interior of the long bones, lining the medullary cavity, and sending prolongations into the compact substance; and others internally, which form septa and spaces for the reception of the marrow. The cells, thus formed, are distinct from each other. From the observations of Howship,\* it would seem probable, that the oil of bones is deposited in longitudinal canals, that pass through the solid substance of the bone, and through which its vessels are transmitted. This *oil of bones* is the *marrow* of the compact structure, the latter term being generally restricted to this secretion when contained in the cavities of long bones; that which exists in the spongy substance being termed, by some writers, the *medullary juice*. The *medullary membrane*, called also the *internal periosteum*, consists chiefly of blood-vessels ramifying on an extremely delicate cellular tissue, in which nerves may likewise be traced.

Berzelius examined marrow obtained from the thigh-bone of an ox, and found it to consist of the following constituents:—pure adipous matter, 96; skins and blood-vessels, 1; albumen, gelatin, extractive, peculiar matter, and water, 3.<sup>b</sup>

The marrow is one of the corporeal components, of whose use we can scarcely offer a plausible conjecture. It has been supposed to render the bones less brittle; but this is not correct, as those of the *fœtus*, which contain little or no marrow, are less brittle than those of the adult; whilst the bones of old persons, in which the medullary cavity is extremely large, are more brittle than those of the adult. It

\* *Medico-chirurg. Trans.* vii. 393.

<sup>b</sup> Thomson, *Chemistry of Animal Bodies*, p. 256, Edinburgh, 1843.

is possible that it may be placed in the cavities of the bones,—which would otherwise be so many vacant spaces,—to serve the general purposes of the fat, when it is required by the system. The other hypotheses, that have been entertained on the subject, are not deserving of notice.

#### e. *Synovial Exhalation.*

Within the articular capsules, and the bursæ mucosæ,—which have been described under the head of Muscular Motion,—a fluid is secreted, which is spread over the articular surfaces of the bones, and facilitates their movements. Havers<sup>a</sup> considered this fluid to be secreted by *synovial glands*,—for such he conceived the reddish cellular masses to be, that are found in certain articulations. Haller<sup>b</sup> strangely regarded the synovia as the marrow, which had transuded through the spongy extremities of the bones; but, since the time of Bichat, every anatomist and physiologist has ascribed it to the exhalant action of the synovial membrane, which strongly resembles the serous membranes in form, structure, and functions, and whose folds constitute the projections which Havers mistook for glands.<sup>c</sup> This membrane exists in all the movable articulations, and in the channels and sheaths in which the tendons play. The generality of anatomists regard the articular capsules as shut sacs; the membrane being reflected over the incrusting cartilages. Magendie, however, affirms, that he has several times satisfied himself, that the membranes do not pass beyond the circumference of the cartilages. From the inner surface of these membranes the synovia is exhaled, in the same manner as in other serous cavities.

Margueron<sup>d</sup> analyzed the synovia obtained from a posterior extremity of the ox, and found it to consist of fibrous matter, 11·86; albumen, 4·52; chloride of sodium, 1·75; soda, 0·71; phosphate of lime, 0·70; and water, 80·46. M. Donné<sup>e</sup> says it is always alkaline in health; but in certain diseases it sometimes becomes acid.

#### f. *Exhalation of the Colouring Matter of the Skin and other parts.*

The nature of the exhalation, which constitutes the colouring matter of the rete mucosum, has already engaged our attention, when treating of the skin, under the Sense of Touch. It is presumed to be exhaled by the vessels of the skin, and to be deposited beneath the cuticle, so as to communicate the colours that characterize the different races. Such are regarded as the secretory organs by most anatomists and physiologists; but Gaultier,<sup>f</sup> whose researches into the intimate constitution of the skin have gained him much celebrity, is of opinion, that it is furnished by the bulbs of the hair; and he assigns, as reasons for this belief, that the negro, in whom it is abundant, has short hair; that the female, whose hair is more beautiful

<sup>a</sup> De Ossibus, serm. iv. c. 1; and Osteologia Nova, London, 1691.

<sup>b</sup> Element. Physiol. iv. 11.

<sup>c</sup> Bécclard, Elements of General Anat. by Togno, p. 140.

<sup>d</sup> Annales de Chimie, xiv. 123; also, Thomson, Chemistry of Animal Bodies, p. 505, Edinburgh, 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Journal Hebdomad. Février, 1834.

<sup>f</sup> Recherches sur l'Organisation de la Peau de l'Homme, &c. Paris, 1809 and 1811.

and abundant than that of the male, has the fairest skin; and that when he applied blisters to the skin of the negro, he saw the colouring matter oozing from the bulbs of the hair, and deposited at the surface of the *reté mucosum*. Breschet, again, describes a particular chromatogenous apparatus, for producing the colouring matter, which is composed of a glandular or secreting parenchyma, situate a little below the papillæ, and having excretory ducts, which pour the colouring principle on the surface of the true skin. This mingles with the soft and diffuent mucous matter, the admixture producing the "pretended reticular body of Malpighi," and the epidermis or cuticle.<sup>a</sup> He describes particular organs, or a "blennogenous apparatus," for the secretion of this mucous matter. They consist of a glandular parenchyma, or organ of secretion, in the substance of the true skin; and of excretory ducts, which issue from the latter and deposit the mucous matter between the papillæ; and lastly, M. Flourens<sup>b</sup> has described a special apparatus, which he terms "pigmental"—*appareil pigmental*—consisting of a particular membrane, which bears the pigment; and of a layer of the pigment itself.

The composition of this pigment cannot be determined with precision, owing to its quantity being too small to admit of examination. Chlorine deprives it of its black hue, and renders it yellow. A negro, by keeping his foot for some time in water impregnated with this gas, deprived it of its colour, and rendered it nearly white; but, in a few days, the black colour returned with its former intensity. The experiment was made with similar results on the fingers. Blumenbach<sup>c</sup> thought, that the mucous pigment was formed chiefly of carbon; and the notion has received favour with many.<sup>d</sup>

The colour, according to Henle and others, is owing to pigment cells, of which the *pigmentum nigrum* of the eye is wholly composed. They are considered to exhibit, usually, the original form of the cell with little alteration. On the choroid coat of the eye they form a kind of pavement, and have somewhat of a polyhedral shape. In the human skin, they are scattered through the ordinary epidermic cells, and the colour of the skin is determined by that of their contents.<sup>e</sup> Krause,<sup>f</sup> however, denies that the colour of the cuticle of the Ethiopian depends on pigment cells, like those of the *pigmentum nigrum*. It is owing chiefly, he says, to the colour of the proper nuclei and cells of the epidermis. There are indeed some few pigment cells mingled with the proper cells of the middle and superficial layers of the epidermis; but they are distinguishable from those of the *pigmentum nigrum* by containing far fewer pigment granules, and by having always a dark, not a clear, nucleus. The colour depends especially on the dark or almost black-brown colour of the nuclei, whether free in the deep layers of epidermis or surrounded by

<sup>a</sup> *Nouvelles Recherches sur la Structure de la Peau*. Paris, 1835.

<sup>b</sup> *Anatomie Générale de la Peau et des Membranes Muqueuses*, p. 4. Paris, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> *Instit. Physiol.* § 274; and Elliotson's translation, 4th edit. Lond. 1838.

<sup>d</sup> Carpenter, *op. cit.* § 616.

<sup>e</sup> Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 616. Lond. 1842.

<sup>f</sup> *Art. Haut*, in Wagner's *Handwörterbuch der Physiologie*, Lief. vii., cited by Mr. Paget, *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, April, 1845, p. 566.

cells. They have dark nucleoli, sharp outlines; appear only very obscurely granular, and cannot be broken into smaller pigment granules. The cells surrounding them may be seen in the deeper layers; they also are uniformly dark, though less dark than the nuclei. In the middle and superficial layers, the nuclei, as long as they can be seen, are still dark; the cells are much paler, but brownish and darker than in the corresponding layers in uncoloured persons.

Pigment granules are amongst the most minute structures of the body, being not more than  $\frac{1}{250000}$ th part of an inch in their largest diameter, and about one-fourth as much in thickness.<sup>a</sup>

The uses of the pigment of the skin—as well as of that which lines the choroid coat of the eye, the posterior surface of the iris, and of the ciliary processes—are detailed in other places.<sup>b</sup>

#### g. *Areolar Exhalation.*

Under this term, Adelon<sup>c</sup> has included different recrementitial secretions effected within the organs of sense, or in parenchymatous structures,—as the aqueous, crystalline, and vitreous humours of the eye, and the liquor of Cutugno, all of which have already engaged attention; the exhalation of a kind of albuminous, reddish, or whitish lymph into the interior of the lymphatic ganglions, and into the organs, called by Chaussier, *glandiform ganglions*, and by Béclard, *sanguineous ganglions*;—namely, the thymus, thyroid, supra-renal capsules, and spleen. We know but little, however, of the fluids formed in these parts: they have never been analyzed, and their uses are inappreciable.

A fluid is exhaled from the inner or serous coat of the arterial, venous, and lymphatic vessels. It must be serous, and its chief use doubtless is to lubricate the interior of the vessel, and to prevent adhesion between it and the fluid circulating within it.

### 2. EXTERNAL EXHALATIONS.

#### a. *Cutaneous Exhalation or Transpiration.*

A transparent fluid is constantly exhaled from the skin, which is generally invisible in consequence of its being converted into vapour as soon as it reaches the surface; but, at other times, owing to augmentation of the secretion, or to the air being loaded with humidity, it is apparent on the surface of the body. When invisible, it is called the *insensible transpiration* or *perspiration*; when perceptible, *sweat*. In the state of health, according to Thénard,<sup>d</sup> this fluid reddens litmus paper; yet the taste is rather saline—resembling that of common salt—than acid. Wagner,<sup>e</sup> indeed, affirms that it generally shows alkaline reaction; and at other times does not affect vegetable blues;

<sup>a</sup> Henle; and Paget, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., July, 1842, p. 266.

<sup>b</sup> See, on the subject of the Pigments, Burdach's *Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, v. 176. Leipz. 1835.

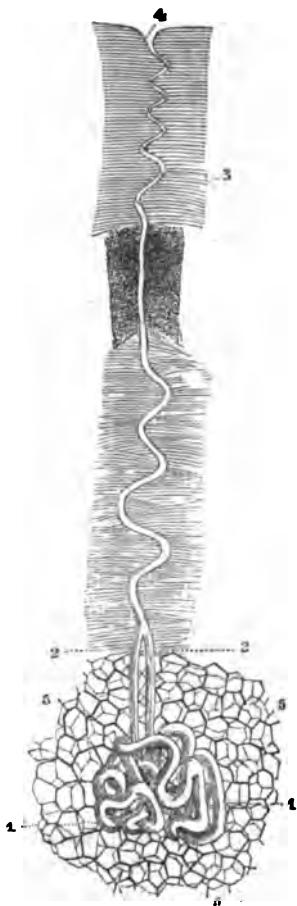
<sup>c</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. tom. iii. 463. Paris, 1829.

<sup>d</sup> *Traité de Chimie*, tom. iii.

<sup>e</sup> *Elements of Physiology*, by R. Willis, § 204. Lond. 1842.

but the sweat of many parts of the body,—the armpits for example,—is said always to react like an alkali. Allusion has already been

Fig. 245.



*Diaphanous Apparatus from Palm of the Hand.*

1 1. Convoluted tubes, that form the gland, and unite into two excretory ducts, 2 2, forming the spiral duct, which perforates the epidermis at 3, and opens on its surface at 4. 5, 5, 5, 5. Fat cells in which the gland is embedded.—(Wagner.)

made to the views of M. Donn , who considers, that the external acid, and the internal alkaline membranes of the human body represent the two poles of a pile, the electrical effects of which are appreciable by the galvanometer.

The smell of the perspiration is peculiar, and becomes almost insupportable when concentrated, and especially when subjected to distillation. The fluid is composed, according to Th nard, of much water, a small quantity of acetic acid, chloride of sodium, and perhaps of potassium, a very little earthy phosphate, a trace of oxide of iron, and an inappreciable quantity of animal matter. Berzelius regards it as water, holding in solution the chlorides of potassium and sodium, lactic acid, lactate of soda, and a little animal matter; and Anselmino, as consisting of a solution of osmazome, chlorides of sodium and calcium, acetic acid, and an alkaline acetate, salivary matter, sulphates of soda and potassa, and calcareous salts, with mucus, albumen, sebaceous humour, and gelatin in variable proportions. Raspail regards the sweat as an acid product of the disorganization of the skin. After evaporation upon a clean glass plate, fragments of epidermic cells are generally observed in it, and crystals are left behind, which are those of its contained salts. With great care to avoid admixture, Krause collected a small quantity of pure cutaneous perspiration from the palm of the hand, where there are no sebaceous follicles. The fluid yielded, with boiling ether, some small globules of oil and crystals of margaric. It was acid, but after twenty-four hours became alkaline, by the developement of ammonia. In another experiment, he

<sup>a</sup> Journal Hebdomad., F vrier, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Medico-chir. Trans. iii. 256, and Bostock, *ibid.* xiv. 424.

<sup>c</sup> Lepelletier, *Physiologie M dicale et Philosophique*, ii. 452, Paris, 1832. Also, Thomson, *Chemistry of Animal Bodies*, p. 523. Edinburgh, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> *Chimie Organique*, p. 505. Paris, 1832.

<sup>e</sup> Art. Haut, in Wagner's *Handw rterbuch der Physiologie*, cited by Mr. Paget in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, April, 1845, p. 567.

found, that the tissue of the epidermis, independently of the fatty matter secreted on its surface, contains a fatty substance.

In a memoir presented to the *Académie Royale des Sciences* of Paris, MM. Breschet and Roussel de Vauzème showed, that there exists in the skin an apparatus for the secretion of the sweat, consisting of a glandular parenchyma, which secretes the liquid, and of ducts, which pour it on the surface of the body. These ducts are arranged spirally, and open very obliquely under the scales of the epidermis. To this apparatus they apply the epithet "diapnogenous:" the ducts they call "sudoriferous or hidrophorous."<sup>a</sup> The marginal figure (Fig. 245) exhibits the apparatus magnified.

These ducts are extremely numerous. Mr. E. Wilson<sup>b</sup> counted the perspiratory pores on the palm of the hand, and found 3528 in a square inch; and each of these pores being the aperture of a little tube of about a quarter of an inch long, it follows, that in a square inch of skin, on the palm of the hand, there exists a length of tube equal to 882 inches, or 73½ feet. To obtain an estimate of the length of tube of the perspiratory system of the whole surface of the body, he thinks that 2800 might be taken as a fair average of the number of pores in the square inch, and 700, consequently, of the number of inches in length. "Now the number of square inches of surface in a man of ordinary height and bulk is 2500; the number of pores, therefore, 7,000,000, and the number of inches of perspiratory tube, 1,750,000; that is, 145,833 feet, or 48,600 yards, or nearly 28 miles!"

Numerous experiments have been instituted for the purpose of discovering the quantity of transpiration that takes place in a given time. Of these, the earliest were by Sanctorius,—for which he is more celebrated than for any other of his labours,—after whom the transpiration was called *Perspirabile Sanctorianum*.<sup>c</sup> For thirty years, this indefatigable experimentalist weighed daily, with the greatest care, his solid and liquid ingesta and egesta, and his own body, with the view of deducing the loss sustained by the cutaneous and pulmonary exhalations. He found, that every twenty-four hours, his body returned sensibly to the same weight, and that he lost the whole of the ingesta;—five-eighths by transpiration, and three-eighths by the ordinary excretions. For eight pounds of ingesta, there were only three pounds of sensible egesta, which consisted of forty-four ounces of urine, and four of fæces. It is lamentable to reflect, that so much time was occupied in the attainment of such insignificant results. The self-devotion of Sanctorius gave occasion, however, to the institution of numerous experiments of the same kind; as well as to discover the variations in the exhalation, according to age, climate, &c. The results of these have been collected by Haller,<sup>d</sup> but they afford little instruction; especially as they were directed to the transpiration in general, without affording us any data to calculate the proportion

<sup>a</sup> Breschet, *Nouvelles Recherches sur la Structure de la Peau*, Paris, 1835; also, Plumbe, on Diseases of the Skin, p. 12, Lond. 1837; and Todd and Bowman, *The Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of Man*, p. 422, Lond. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> A Practical Treatise on Healthy Skin, p. 42, Lond. 1845.

<sup>c</sup> *Ars Sanctarii de Statica Medicina*, cum Comment. Martini Litter, Lugd. Bat. 1711.

<sup>d</sup> *Elem. Physiol.*, xii. 2, 10.

exhaled from the lungs compared with that constantly taking place by the cutaneous surface. Rye,<sup>a</sup> who dwelt in Cork, lat. 51° 54', found, in the three winter months—December, January, and February—that the quantity of urine was 3937 ounces; of the perspiration, 4797;—in the spring months—March, April, and May—the urine amounted to 3558; the perspiration to 5405; in the summer months—June, July, and August—the urine amounted to 3352; the perspiration to 5719; and in the three autumnal months—September, October, and November—the quantity of urine was 3369; that of the perspiration 4471. The daily average estimate, in ounces, was as follows:—

	Urine.	Perspiration.
Winter, . . . . .	42 $\frac{7}{10}$	53
Spring, . . . . .	40	60
Summer, . . . . .	37	63
Autumn, . . . . .	37	50

thus making the average daily excretion of urine, throughout the year to be a little more than 39 ounces; and of the transpiration, 56 ounces. Keill,<sup>b</sup> on the other hand, makes the average daily perspiration, 31 ounces; and that of the urine 38; the weight of the *fæces* being 5 ounces, and that of the solid and liquid ingesta, 75 ounces. His experiments were made at Northampton, England, lat. 52° 11'. Bryan Robinson<sup>c</sup> found, as the result of his observations in Ireland, that the ratio of the perspiration to the urine was, in summer, as 5 to 3; in winter, as 2 to 3; whilst in April, May, October, November, and December, they were nearly equal. In youth, the ratio of the perspiration to the urine was as 1340 to 1000; in the aged, as 967 to 1000. Hartmann, when the solid and liquid ingesta amounted to 80 ounces, found the urine discharged 28 ounces; the *fæces* 6 or 7 ounces; and the perspirable matter, 45 or 46 ounces. De Gorter,<sup>d</sup> in Holland, when the ingesta were 91 ounces, found the perspiration to amount to 49 ounces; the urine to 36; and the *fæces* to 8. Dodart<sup>e</sup> asserts, that in France, the ratio of the perspiration to the *fæces*, is as 7 to 1; and to the whole egesta as 15 to 12 or 10. The average perspiration in the twenty-four hours, he estimates at 33 ounces and 2 drachms; and Sauvages, in the south of France, found, that when the ingesta were 60 ounces in the day, the transpiration amounted to 33 ounces; the urine to 22; and the *fæces* to 5. But most of these estimates were obtained in the cooler climates,—the "*regiones boreales*,"—as Haller<sup>f</sup> has, not very happily, termed them.

According to Lining,<sup>g</sup> whose experiments were made in South Carolina, lat. 32° 47', the perspiration exceeded the urine in the warm months; but in the cold, the latter had the preponderance. The following table gives the average daily proportion of the urine and perspiration, for each month of the year, in ounces,—as quoted by Haller.

<sup>a</sup> Rogers on Epidem. Diseases, Appendix, Dubl. 1734.

<sup>b</sup> Tentamina Medico-Phys.—Appendix, Lond. 1718.

<sup>c</sup> Dissertation on the Food and Discharges of Human Bodies, Dublin, 1748.

<sup>d</sup> De Perspiratione Insensibili, Lugd. Bat. 1736.

<sup>e</sup> Mémoire de l'Acad. des Sciences, ii. 276.

<sup>f</sup> Op. citat.

<sup>g</sup> Philos. Transact. for 1743 and 1745.



	Urine.	Perspiration.
December, . . . . .	70·81	49·55
January, . . . . .	72·43	39·97
February, . . . . .	77·86	37·45
March, . . . . .	70·59	43·23
April, . . . . .	59·17	47·72
May, . . . . .	56·15	58·11
June, . . . . .	52·90	71·39
July, . . . . .	43·77	86·41
August, . . . . .	55·41	70·91
September, . . . . .	40·60	77·09
October, . . . . .	47·67	40·78
November, . . . . .	63·16	40·97

After the period at which Haller wrote, no experiments of any moment were adopted for appreciating the transpiration. Whenever trials were instituted, the exhalation from both the skin and the lungs was included in the result, and no satisfactory means were adopted for separating them, until Lavoisier and Séguin\* made their celebrated experiments. Séguin enclosed himself in a bag of gummed taffeta, which was tied above the head, and had an aperture, the edges of which were fixed around the mouth by a mixture of turpentine and pitch. By means of this arrangement, the pulmonary transpiration alone escaped into the air. To estimate its quantity, it was merely necessary for M. Séguin to weigh himself in the sac, by a very delicate balance, at the commencement and termination of the experiment. By repeating the experiment out of the sac, he determined the total quantity of the transpired fluid; so that, by deducting from this the quantity of fluid exhaled from the lungs, he obtained the amount of the cutaneous transpiration. He, moreover, kept an account of the food which he took; of the solid and liquid egesta; and as far as he was able, of every circumstance that could influence the transpiration.

The results—as applicable to Paris—at which Lavoisier and Séguin arrived, by a series of well-devised and well-conducted experiments, were the following:—*First*. Whatever may be the quantity of food taken, or the variations in the state of the atmosphere, the same individual, after having increased in weight by the whole quantity of nourishment taken, returns daily, after the lapse of twenty-four hours, to nearly the same weight as the day before;—provided he be in good health; his digestion perfect; that he is not fattening, or growing; and avoids all kind of excess. *Secondly*. If, when all other circumstances are identical, the quantity of food varies; or if—the quantity of food being the same—the effects of transpiration differ; the quantity of the excrements augments or diminishes, so that every day at the same hour, we return nearly to the same weight; proving, that when digestion goes on well, the causes, which concur in the loss or excretion of the food taken in, afford each other mutual assistance;—in the state of health one charging itself with what the other is unable to accomplish. *Thirdly*. Defective digestion is one of the most direct causes of the diminution of transpiration. *Fourthly*. When digestion goes on well, and the other causes are equal, the quantity of food has

\* Mémoir. de l'Académ. des Sciences de Paris. Paris, 1777 and 1790.

but little effect on the transpiration. Séguin affirms, that he has very frequently taken at dinner two pounds and a half of solid and liquid food; and at other times, four pounds; yet the results, in the two cases, differed but little from each other; provided only, that the quantity of fluid did not vary materially in the two cases. *Fifthly.* Immediately after dinner, the transpiration is at its minimum. *Sixthly.* When all other circumstances are equal, the loss of weight, induced by insensible transpiration, is at its maximum during digestion. The increase of transpiration during digestion compared with the loss sustained when fasting, is, on an average,  $2\frac{1}{10}$  grains per minute. *Seventhly.* When circumstances are most favourable, the greatest loss of weight, caused by insensible transpiration, was, according to their observations, 32 grains per minute; consequently 3 ounces, 2 drachms and 48 grains *poids de marc*, per hour; and 5 pounds in twenty-four hours; under the calculation, that the loss is alike at all hours of the day, which is not, however, the fact. *Eighthly.* When all the accessory circumstances are least favourable, provided only that digestion is properly accomplished, the smallest loss of weight is 11 grains per minute; consequently, 1 ounce, 1 drachm and 12 grains per hour; and 1 pound, 11 ounces and 4 drachms in the twenty-four hours. *Ninthly.* Immediately after eating, the loss of weight caused by the insensible perspiration, is  $10\frac{1}{2}$  grains per minute, during the time at which all the extraneous causes are most unfavourable to transpiration; and  $19\frac{1}{10}$  grains per minute, when these causes are most favourable and the internal causes are alike. "These differences," says M. Séguin, "in the transpiration after a meal, according as the causes influencing it are more or less favourable, are not in the same ratio with the differences observed at any other time when the other circumstances are equal; but we know not how to account for the phenomenon." *Tenthly.* The cutaneous transpiration is immediately dependent both on the solvent virtue of the circumambient air, and on the power possessed by the exhalants of conveying the perspirable fluid as far as the surface of the skin. *Eleventhly.* From the average of all the experiments, it seems, that the loss of weight caused by the insensible transpiration is 18 grains per minute; and that, of these 18 grains, 11, on the average, belong to the cutaneous transpiration, and 7 to the pulmonary. *Twelfthly.* The pulmonary transpiration, compared with the volume of the lungs, is much more considerable than the cutaneous, compared with the surface of the skin. *Thirteenthly.* When every other circumstance is equal, the pulmonary transpiration is nearly the same before and immediately after a meal; and if, on an average, the pulmonary transpiration be  $17\frac{1}{4}$  grains per minute before dinner, it is  $17\frac{7}{10}$  grains after dinner. *Lastly.* Every other intrinsic circumstance being equal, the weight of the solid excrements is least during winter.

Although these results are probably fairly deduced from the experiments; and the experiments themselves were almost as well conceived as the subject admits of, we cannot regard the estimates as more than approximations. Independently of the fact, that the envelope of taffeta must necessarily have retarded the exhalation by

shutting off the air, and caused more to pass off by pulmonary transpiration, the perspiration must incessantly vary according to circumstances within and without the system: some individuals, too, perspire more readily than others; and this is dependent, as we have seen, upon climate and season,—and likewise upon the quantity of fluid received into the digestive organs. From all these and other causes, Bichat is led to observe, that the endeavour to determine the quantity of the cutaneous transpiration is as vain as to endeavour to specify what quantity of water is evaporated every hour, by a fire, the intensity of which is varying every instant. To attempt, however, the solution of the problem, experiments were likewise undertaken by Cruikshank,<sup>a</sup> and by Abernethy. Their plan consisted in confining the hand, for an hour, in an air-tight glass jar, and collecting the transpired moisture. Mr. Abernethy, having weighed the fluid collected in the glass, multiplied its quantity by 384, the number of times he conceived the surface of the hand and wrist to be contained in the whole cutaneous surface. This gave 24 pounds, as the quantity exhaled from the skin in the twenty-four hours, upon the supposition, that the whole surface perspires to an equal extent. These experiments have been repeated by Dr. William Wood,<sup>b</sup> of Newport, England, with some modifications. He pasted around the mouth of a jar one extremity of a bladder the ends of which were cut away, and the hand being passed through the bladder into the jar, the other extremity was bound to the wrist with a ligature, not so tight, however, as to interfere, in any degree, with the circulation. The exact weight of the jar and bladder had previously been ascertained. During the experiment, cold water was applied to the outer surface of the jar, to cause the deposition of the fluid accumulated within. The result of his experiments was as follows:

Exp.	Time of day.	Temperature in apartment.		Pulse per minute.	Fluid collected in an hour.	
1	Noon.	.	66°	84	.	32 grs.
2	Do.	.	66	78	.	32
3	Do.	.	66	78	.	26
4	Do.	.	61	84	.	32
5	9 P. M.	.	62	80	.	26
6	Do.	.	62	75	.	23
Mean.			63.8	79.8		28.5

The next thing was to estimate the proportion, which the surface of the hand and wrist bears to the whole surface of the body. Abernethy reckoned it as 1 to 384, whilst Cruikshank computed it as 1 to 60! Dr. Wood does not adopt the estimate of either. He thinks, however, that the estimate of the former as regards the surface of the hand and wrist, which he makes seventy square inches, is near the truth, having found it to correspond both with his own measurements and the reports of glovers. Mr. Abernethy's estimate of the superficial area of the whole body—2700 square inches, or above eighteen square feet, he properly regards as too high. Perhaps the most general

<sup>a</sup> Experiments on the Insensible Perspiration, p. 5, Lond. 1795.

<sup>b</sup> An Essay on the Structure and Functions of the Skin, &c., Edinb. 1832.

opinion is, that it amounts to sixteen square feet, or 2304 square inches; but Haller did not think it exceeded thirteen square feet, or 2160 square inches. Dr. Wood adopts the former of these, and is disposed to think, that the proportion of the surface of the hand and fingers, taken to the extremity of the bone of the arm, does not fall short of 1 to 2, which if we adopt the ratio of the quantity, that he found transpired per hour, gives, for the whole body, about forty-five ounces, or nearly four pounds troy in the twenty-four hours. This is considerably above the result of the experiments of either Séguin or Abernethy; yet, on reviewing the experiments, Dr. Wood is not disposed to think it far from the truth.

Upwards of fifty years ago, Dr. Dalton, of Manchester, undertook a series of experiments similar to those of Sanctorius, Keill, Hartmann and Dodart.\* The first he made upon himself, in the month of March, for fourteen days in succession. The aggregate of the articles of food consumed in this time was as follows,—bread, 168 ounces avoirdupois; oaten cake, 79 ounces; oatmeal, 12 ounces; butcher's meat, 54½ ounces; potatoes, 130 ounces; pastry, 55 ounces; cheese, 32 ounces;—Total of solid food, 525½ ounces; averaging 38 ounces daily:—of milk, 435½ ounces; beer, 230 ounces; tea, 76 ounces;—Total, 741½, averaging 53 ounces of fluid daily. The daily consumption was, consequently, 91 ounces; or nearly six pounds. During the same period, the total quantity of urine passed was 680 ounces; and of fæces, 68 ounces—the daily average being, —of urine, 48½ ounces; of fæces, 5 ounces: making 53½. If we subtract these egesta from the ingesta, there will remain 37½ ounces, which must have been exhaled by the cutaneous and pulmonary transpirations, on the supposition that the weight of the body remained stationary. To test the influence of difference of seasons, Dr. Dalton resumed his investigations, in the month of June of the same year. The results were as might have been anticipated,—a less consumption of solids and a greater of fluids; a diminution in the evacuations and an increase in the insensible perspiration. The average of solids consumed per day, was 34 ounces; of fluids, 56 ounces;—total, 90 ounces; the daily average of the evacuations—urine, 42 ounces; fæces, 4½,—leaving a balance of nearly 44 ounces, for the daily loss by perspiration, or one-sixth more than during the cooler season. He next varied the process, with the view of obtaining the quantity of perspiration, and the circumstances attendant upon it more directly. He procured a weighing beam, that would turn with one ounce. Dividing the day into periods of four hours in the forenoon, four or five hours in the afternoon, and nine hours in the night—or from ten o'clock at night to seven in the morning—he endeavoured to find the perspiration corresponding to these periods respectively. He weighed himself directly after breakfast, and again before dinner, observing neither to take nor part with any thing in the interval, except what was lost by perspiration. The difference in weight indicated such loss. The same course was followed in the afternoon and in the night. This train of experiments was continued for three

\* Manchester Memoirs, vol. v.

weeks in November. The mean hourly losses by transpiration were;—in the morning, 1·8 ounce avoirdupois;—afternoon, 1·67 ounce; night, 1·5. During twelve days of this period, he kept an account of urine corresponding in time with perspiration. The ratio was as 46 to 33.

From the whole of his investigations on this subject, Dr. Dalton concludes;—that of six pounds of aliment taken in the day, there appears to be nearly one pound of carbon and azote together; the remaining five pounds are chiefly water, which seems necessary as a vehicle to introduce the other two elements into the circulation, and also to supply the lungs and membranes with moisture; that very nearly the whole quantity of food enters the circulation, for the *feces* constitute only  $\frac{1}{11}$ th part, and of these a part—bile—must have been secreted; that one great portion is thrown off by the kidneys, namely, about half of the whole weight taken, but probably more or less according to climate, season, &c.; that another great portion is thrown off by means of insensible perspiration, which may be subdivided into two portions, one of which passes off by the skin—amounting to one-sixth part, and the other five-sixths are discharged from the lungs in the form of carbonic acid, and of water or aqueous vapour.

Since the time of Lavoisier and Séguin, Dr. Edwards\* has made some experiments, for the purpose of illustrating the effect produced upon cutaneous transpiration by various circumstances to which the body is subjected. His first trials were made on cold-blooded animals, in which the cutaneous transpiration can be readily separated from the pulmonary, owing to the length of time that they are capable of living without respiring. All that is necessary is to weigh the animal before and after the experiment, and to make allowance for the ingesta and egesta. In this way he discovered, that the body loses successively less and less in equal portions of time; that the transpiration proceeds more rapidly in dry than in moist air; in the extreme states nearly in the proportion of 10 to 1; that temperature has, also, considerable influence,—the transpiration at 68° of Fahrenheit, being twice as much; and, at 104°, seven times as much as at 32°. He likewise found, that frogs transpire, whilst they are in water, as is shown by the diminution which they experience while immersed in that fluid, and by the appearance of the water itself, which becomes perceptibly impregnated by the matter excreted by the skin. In warm-blooded animals, he found, as in the cold-blooded, the transpiration become less and less in proportion to the quantity of fluid evaporated from the body; and he observed the same difference between the effects of moist and dry air, and between a high and a low temperature. The effects of these agents were essentially the same on man as on animals. He found, that the transpiration was more copious during the early than the latter part of the day; that it

\* *Sur l'Influence des Agens Physiques*, Paris, 1822; or Hodgkin and Fisher's translation, Lond. 1832: see, also, an analytical review of the same, by the author of this work, in the *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, for May, 1834.

was greater after taking food; and, on the whole, appeared to be increased during sleep.\*

Whenever the fluid, which constitutes the insensible transpiration, does not evaporate, owing to the causes referred to at the commencement of this article, it appears on the surface in the form of *sensible perspiration* or *sweat*. It has been supposed by some physiologists, that the insensible and sensible perspirations are two distinct functions. Such appears to be the opinion of Haller, and of Edwards, who regards the former as a physical *evaporation*,—the latter as a vital *transudation* or *secretion*,<sup>b</sup> but no sufficient reason seems to exist, why we should not regard them as different degrees of the same function. It is, indeed, affirmed, that the sweat is generally less charged with carbonic acid than the vapour of transpiration; and that it is richer in salts, which are deposited on the skin, and are sometimes seen in the form of white flocculi; but our knowledge on this matter is vague. There can be no doubt, however, that a large portion of the transpiration, pulmonary and cutaneous, consists of the fluid of evaporation,—the smaller and the true matter of perspiration being the secretion of the sudoriferous glands. To establish the amount of the fluids of evaporation and secretion, Krause<sup>c</sup> has recently endeavoured to number and measure these glands. On an average, he says, in each superficial square inch of the body there are 1000 orifices and glands of  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of a line in diameter; the greatest and least numbers in this space being, in the palm, 2736; in the sole, 2685; in the cheek, 548; in the neck, back, and nates, 417. The whole number, excluding the axilla, in which they are peculiarly large and thickset, is estimated at about 2,381,248. Adopting these numbers, and supposing each gland to be occupied by a column of fluid presenting at the orifice a hemispherical surface  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of a line in diameter—the size, which Krause found by admeasurement of some drops in a warm and moist, but not sweating skin—the whole of the glands would present an evaporating surface of 7896 square inches. Krause therefore considers it probable—according to ascertained laws of evaporation and from experiments instituted for the purpose—that only a portion of the fluid discharged by cutaneous transpiration is furnished by these glands; inasmuch as there could not be more than 3365 grains evaporated in the twenty-four hours from such a surface under favourable circumstances, whereas the experiments of Lavoisier and Séguin—as has been shown—gave an average of 11 grains per minute, or 15,840 grains in the twenty-four hours,—leaving 12,475 grains to be accounted for probably by evaporation. But these are of course mere approximations to the truth.

\* For various estimates relative to the quantity of the cutaneous transpiration, see Burdach's *Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, v. 196. Leipz. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> Edwards, *Sur l'Influence des Agens Physiques, &c.*; or *Drs. Hodgkin and Fisher's translation*, Lond. 1832; also, the author's *Human Health*, p. 39, Philad. 1844; his *General Therapeutics*, p. 278, Philad. 1836; or his *General Therapeutics and Materia Medica*, vol. i., p. 302, Philad. 1846.

<sup>c</sup> Art. *Haut*, in Wagner's *Handwörterbuch der Physiologie*, cited by Mr. Paget in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, April, 1845, p. 567.

Careful examinations have been made recently by M. Valentin\* on his own person, as regards the amount of both cutaneous and pulmonary transpiration. Taking three days of ordinary life in September, weighing himself naked fifteen times a day, and weighing all his ingesta and sensible excretions, he found the averages of three days to be:—nutritive matter taken, 45325·5 grains; excrement, 2956·3 grains; urine, 22439·3 grains; perspiration, 19327·4 grains. The ingesta being taken as 1, the excrement was ·065, the urine ·503; and the perspiration ·422. There were differences, however, in the days;—in the first, the proportion of the ingesta to the excretions was as 1·097 to 1; in the second, as 1·028 to 1; in the third, as 1 to 1·090. The hourly amount of transpiration was at times 4½ times as great as at others; the greatest difference being caused by whatever excited sweating, or a perceptible moisture of the skin. For instance, on the same day, the hourly amount, after taking two cups of coffee, and during gentle perspiration, was 1213·65 grains; in the forenoon, in pretty active exercise and sweating, 1402·75 grains; and in the evening, during copious sweating from exercise, 2056·85 grains; but whilst writing quietly in the forenoon of the same day it fell to 858·7 grains, and three or four hours after dinner, it was only 509·95 grains. Nothing influenced the transpiration so much as rest and bodily exertion. Even when the latter did not produce manifest sweating, the effect was considerable. After eating, also, transpiration was generally increased, and its minimum was observed during fasting, and rest in a cool temperature. During the night and in sleep, the transpiration was diminished, but not more than in rest during the day. Mental exertion had no obvious influence.

Particular parts of the body perspire more freely, and sweat more readily than others. The forehead, armpits, groins, hands, feet, &c., exhibit evidences of this most frequently; some of these, perhaps, owing to the fluid, when exhaled, not evaporating readily,—the contact of air being impeded. It is presumed, likewise, that the sweat has not every where the same composition. Its odour certainly varies in different parts of the body. In the armpits and feet it is generally considered to be more acid; but M. Donné<sup>b</sup> affirms, that there, as well as around the genital organs and between the toes, and wherever it is most odorous, it is alkaline, restoring the blue of litmus paper which had been previously reddened by an acid. He properly suggests, however, that this may be owing to admixture with the secretion of the follicles. In the violent sweats, accompanying acute rheumatism, its acidity always attracts attention; and in the groins, its odour is strong and rank. It differs, too, greatly in individuals, and especially in the races. In the red-haired, it is said to be unusually strong; and in the negro, during the heat of summer, it is alliaceous and overwhelming. By cleanliness, the red-haired can obviate the unpleasant effect, in a great measure, by preventing undue accumulation in the axilla, groins, &c.; but no ablution can remove the odour of the negro, although cleanliness can detract from its in-

\* *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, B. i.; Valentin's *Repertorium*, Bd. ix.; and *London Med. Gazette*, July 19, 1844, cited by Mr. Paget in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* April, 1845, p. 568.

<sup>b</sup> *Cours de Microscopie*, p. 207. Paris, 1844.

tensity. Each race appears to have its characteristic scent; and, according to Humboldt, the Peruvian Indian, whose smell is highly developed by education, can distinguish the European, the American Indian, and the negro, in the middle of the night, by this sense alone. Some anatomists and physiologists—as will be seen hereafter—have doubted, whether this special odorous matter of the skin belongs properly to the perspiration, and have presumed it to be the product of specific organs. This is, however, by no means established, and the experiments of Thénard, as well as the facts just mentioned, would rather seem to show, that the matter of sweat itself has, within it, the peculiar odour. The fact of the dog tracing its master to an immense distance, and discovering him in a crowd, has induced a belief, that the scent may be distinct from the matter of sweat; but the supposition is not necessary, if we admit the matter of perspiration to be itself odorous. There can be no doubt, however, that certain odorous secretions are formed by the cutaneous follicles.

The singular fact has been stated, that by mixing fresh blood with one-third or one-half its bulk of strong sulphuric acid, and stirring the mixture with a glass rod, a peculiar odour is evolved, which differs in the blood of man and animals, and also in the blood of the two sexes. This odour resembles that of the cutaneous perspiration of the animal. "They have hereby pretended to determine," says a recent medico-legal writer,<sup>a</sup> "whether any given specimen of blood had belonged to a man, a woman, a horse, sheep, or fish. Others pretend, that they have been able to identify the blood of frogs and fleas!"

The first person who directed attention to this point was M. Barruel;<sup>b</sup> who was of opinion that a knowledge of the fact might be important in a medico-legal relation, with the view of determining the source of spots of blood on linen, for example; but even admitting the fact, as stated by MM. Barruel, Devergie,<sup>c</sup> and others, it is obvious, that so much must depend upon the powers of olfactory discrimination of the observer, that the evidence in any doubtful case could scarcely be deserving of much weight. Mr. Taylor, indeed, affirms, that there is probably not one individual among a thousand, whose sense of smelling could be so acute as to allow him to state with undeniable certainty, from what animal the unknown blood had really been taken.

Besides the causes before referred to, the quantity of perspiration is greatly augmented by running or by violent exertion of any kind; especially if the temperature of the air be elevated. Warm fluids favour it greatly, and hence their use, alone or combined with sudorifics, where this class of medicines is indicated. Magendie<sup>d</sup> conceives, that being readily absorbed they are also readily exhaled. This may be true; but the perspiration breaks out too rapidly to admit of this explanation. When ice-cold drinks are taken in hot weather, the cutaneous transpiration is instantaneously excited. The effect, consequently, must be produced by the refrigerant influence of

<sup>a</sup> Taylor, Medical Jurisprudence, Amer. edit., by Dr. Griffith, p. 275. Philad. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Annales d'Hygiène, i. 267.

<sup>c</sup> Médecine Légale, 2de édit. iii. 761. Paris, 1840.

<sup>d</sup> Précis de Physiologie, 2de édit. ii. 455.



the cold medium on the lining membrane of the stomach,—this influence, being propagated, by sympathy, to every part of the capillary system. The same explanation is applicable to warm drinks, whilst the hot exert a sympathetic effect on the skin by virtue of their stimulant properties exerted on the mucous membrane.

With regard to the uses of the insensible transpiration, it has been supposed to preserve the surface supple, and thus to favour the exercise of touch; and also, by undergoing evaporation, to aid in the refrigeration of the body. It is probable, however, that these are quite secondary uses under ordinary circumstances; and that the great office, performed by it, is to remove a certain quantity of fluid from the blood: hence it has been properly termed the *cutaneous depuration*.<sup>a</sup> In this respect, it bears a striking analogy to the urine, which is the only other depuratory secretion, with the exception of the pulmonary transpiration, which we shall find essentially resembles the cutaneous. Being depuratory, it has been conceived, that any interruption to the transpiration must be attended with the most serious consequences; accordingly most diseases have, from time to time, been ascribed to this cause. There is, however, so great a compensation existing between the urinary and cutaneous depurations, that if one be augmented, the other is decreased,—and conversely. Besides, it is well known, that disease is more apt to be induced by partial and irregular application of cold than by frigorific influences of a more general character. The Russian vapour-bath exemplifies this; the bather frequently passing with impunity from a temperature of 130° into cold water. The morbid effect—in these cases of fancied check given to perspiration—is derangement of the capillary vessels engaged in the important functions of nutrition, calorification, and secretion, and the extension of this derangement to every part of the system.<sup>b</sup>

As the *sensible transpiration* or *sweat* is probably only the insensible perspiration in increased quantity, with the addition of saline, and other matters that are not evaporable, its uses demand no special notice.

#### b. Pulmonary Transpiration.

The pulmonary transpiration, to which we have so often alluded, bears a striking analogy to the cutaneous. Sir B. Brodie and Magendie, from the examination of cases of fistulous opening into the trachea, deny that it comes from the lungs, believing it to be formed by the moist mucous lining of the nose, throat, &c.; but this view has been disproved by Paoli and Regnoli, in the case of a young female, whose trachea had been opened, and in whom, at the temperature of 39° Fahr., watery vapour was distinctly expired through the canula.

Mojon<sup>c</sup> strangely supposes the vapour of the breath to be a watery

<sup>a</sup> See Dr. Robert Willis, *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, No. 56. Lond. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> This subject has been expatiated upon by the author, in the works referred to, p. 270, note.

<sup>c</sup> *Leggi Fisiologiche*, &c., translated by Skene, p. 76, Lond. 1827.

fluid secreted by the thyroid gland, and suspended in the respired air, from its volatility caused by the presence of caloric. At one time, it was universally believed to be owing to the combustion of the air with the hydrogen and carbon given off from the lungs;<sup>a</sup> but we have elsewhere shown, that no such combustion occurs; and besides, the exhalation takes place when gases containing no oxygen have been respired by animals. It is now almost universally admitted to be exhaled into the air-cells of the lungs from the pulmonary artery chiefly, but partly from the bronchial arteries distributed to the mucous membrane of the air-passages. Much of the vapour, Dr. Prout conceives,—and, Dr. Carpenter<sup>b</sup> thinks, with probability,—is derived from the chyle in its passage through the lungs; and thus, he considers, the weak and delicate albumen of the chyle is converted into the strong and perfect albumen of the blood.

The air of expiration appears to be saturated with it, so that, according to Valentin<sup>c</sup> and Brunner, the quantity of vapour exhaled may be estimated by subtracting the quantity, contained in the atmospheric air expired, from the quantity which, at the same barometric pressure, would saturate the same atmospheric air at the temperature of 99·5°—the general temperature of the air of expiration. And, on the other hand, if the quantity of watery vapour in the expired air be estimated, the quantity of the air itself may thence be accurately determined, being as much as that quantity of watery vapour would saturate at the ascertained temperature and barometric pressure.

Several interesting experiments have been made on this exhalation, by Magendie, Milne Edwards, Breschet, and others. If water be injected into the pulmonary artery, it passes into the air-cells in myriads of almost imperceptible drops, and mixes with the air contained in them. Magendie<sup>d</sup> found, that its quantity might be augmented at pleasure on living animals, by injecting distilled water, at a temperature approaching that of the body, into the venous system. He injected into the veins of a small dog a considerable amount of water. The animal was at first in a state of real plethora, the vessels being so much distended that it could scarcely move; but in a few minutes the respiration became manifestly hurried, and a large quantity of fluid was discharged from the mouth, the source of which appeared evidently to be the pulmonary transpiration considerably augmented.

Not only, however, is the aqueous portion of the blood exhaled in this manner; but experiment shows, that many substances, introduced into the veins by absorption, or by direct injection, issue by the lungs. Weak alcohol, a solution of camphor, ether, and other odorous substances, when thrown into the cavity of the peritoneum or elsewhere, were found, by Magendie, to be speedily absorbed by the veins, and conveyed to the lungs, where they transuded into the bronchial cells, and were recognised by the smell in the expired air. Phosphorus, when injected, exhibited this transmission in a singular and evident

<sup>a</sup> Bostock's *Physiology*, 3d edit., p. 359.

<sup>b</sup> *Human Physiology*, § 549, Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, i. 547, cited by Mr. Paget, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Jan. 1845, p. 265.

<sup>d</sup> *Précis*, &c., ii. 346.

manner. Magendie,<sup>a</sup> on the suggestion of M. Armand de Montgarny, "a young physician," he remarks, "of much merit," now no more, injected into the crural vein of a dog, half an ounce of oil, in which phosphorus had been dissolved: scarcely had he finished the injection, before the animal sent through the nostrils clouds of a thick white vapour, which was phosphoric acid. When the experiment was made in the dark, these clouds were luminous. M. Tiedemann<sup>b</sup> injected a drachm of the expressed juice of garlic into a vein in the thigh of a middle-sized dog: in the space of three seconds the breath smelt strongly of garlic. When spirit of wine was injected, the exhaled vapour was recognised when the injection was scarcely over.

MM. Breschet and Milne Edwards<sup>c</sup> made several experiments, for the purpose of discovering why the pulmonary transpiration expels so promptly the different gases and liquid substances received into the blood. Considering, properly, that exhalation differs only from absorption in taking place in an inverse direction, these gentlemen conjectured, that it ought to be accelerated by every force that would attract the fluids from within to without; and such a force they conceive inspiration to be, which, in their view, solicits the fluids of the economy to the lungs, in the same mechanical manner as it occasions the entrance of air into the air-cells. In support of this view they adduce the following experiments. To the trachea of a dog a pipe, communicating with a bellows, was adapted, and the thorax was largely opened. Natural respiration was immediately suspended; but artificial respiration was kept up by means of the bellows. The surface of the air-cells was, in this way, constantly subjected to the same pressure; there being no longer diminished pressure during inspiration, as when the thorax is sound, and the animal breathing naturally. Six grains of camphorated spirit were now injected into the peritoneum of the animal; and, at the same time, a similar quantity was injected into another dog, whose respiration was natural. In the course of from three to six minutes, the odorous substance was detected in the pulmonary transpiration of the latter; but in the other it was never manifested. In the first animal, they now exposed a part of the muscles of the abdomen, and applied a cupping-glass to it; when the smell of the camphor speedily appeared at the cupped surface. Their conclusion was, that the pulmonary surface, having ceased to be subjected to the suction force of the chest, during inspiration, the exhalation was arrested, whilst that of the skin was developed as soon as an action of aspiration was exerted upon it by the cupping-glass.

Into the crural veins of two dogs,—one of which breathed naturally, and the other was circumstanced as in the last experiment,—they injected the essential oil of turpentine. In the first of these, the substance was soon apparent in the pulmonary transpiration; and, on opening the body, it was discovered, that the turpentine had im-

<sup>a</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 348.

<sup>b</sup> Tiedemann und Treviranus, *Zeitschrift für Physiologie*, vol. v., part ii.; and *British and Foreign Medical Review*, i. 241, Lond. 1836.

<sup>c</sup> *Recherches Expérimentales sur l'Exhalation Pulmonaire*, Paris, 1836.

pregnated the lung and the pleura much more strongly than the other tissues. In the other animal, on the contrary, the odour of the turpentine was scarcely apparent in the vapour of the lungs; and, on dissection, it was not found in greater quantity in the lungs than in the other tissues;—in the pleura than in the peritoneum.

From the results of these experiments, MM. Breschet and Edwards conclude, that each inspiratory movement constitutes a kind of suction, which attracts the blood to the lungs; and which causes the ejection, through the pulmonary surface, of the liquid and gaseous substances that are mingled with that fluid, more than through the other exhalant surfaces of the body. In their experiments, these gentlemen did not find that the exhalation was effected with equal readiness in every part of the surface, when the cupping-glass was applied in the manner that has been mentioned. The skin of the thigh, for example, did not indicate the odour of camphorated alcohol as that of the region of the stomach.

The chemical composition of the pulmonary transpiration is probably nearly identical with that of the sweat; appearing to consist of water, holding in solution, perhaps, some saline and albuminous matter; but our information, on this matter, derived from the chemist, is not precise. Collard de Martigny's<sup>a</sup> experiments make it consist, in 1000 parts,—of water 907, carbonic acid 90; animal matter—the nature of which he was unable to determine—3 parts. Chaussier found, that by keeping a portion of it in a close vessel exposed to an elevated temperature, a very evident putrid odour was exhaled on opening the vessel. This could only have arisen from the existence of animal matter in it.

The pulmonary transpiration being liable to all the modifications which affect the cutaneous, it is not surprising, that we should meet with so much discordance in the estimates of different individuals, regarding its quantity in a given time. Hales<sup>b</sup> valued it at 20 ounces in the twenty-four hours; Sanctorius,<sup>c</sup> Menzies,<sup>d</sup> and Dr. William Wood,<sup>e</sup> at 6 ounces; Abernethy<sup>f</sup> at 9 ounces; Lavoisier and Séguin<sup>g</sup> at 17½ ounces, *poids de marc*; Thomson<sup>h</sup> at 19 ounces, Dalton at from 1 pound 8½ ounces,<sup>i</sup> to 20½ ounces avoirdupois,<sup>j</sup> and Carpenter,<sup>k</sup> at from 16 to 20 ounces. The uses it serves, in the animal economy, are identical with those of the cutaneous depuration. It is essentially depuratory. Experiments, some of which have been detailed, have sufficiently shown, that volatile substances introduced, in any way, into the circulatory system are rapidly exhaled into the bronchial tubes—if not adapted for the formation of arterial blood. Independently, therefore, of the lungs being the great organ of respiration,

<sup>a</sup> Magendie's *Journal de Physiologie*, x. 111.

<sup>b</sup> *Statical Essays*, ii. 322, Lond., 1767.

<sup>c</sup> *Medicina Statica*, Aphor. v.

<sup>d</sup> *Dissertation on Respiration*, p. 54, Edinb., 1796.

<sup>e</sup> *Essay on the Structure, &c., of the Skin*, Edinb., 1832.

<sup>f</sup> *Surgical and Physiol. Essays*, p. 141, Lond., 1793.

<sup>g</sup> *Mém. de la Société Royale de Médecine*, pour 1782-3; *Annal. de Chimie*, v. 264; and *Mém. de l'Acad. des Sciences*, pour 1789.

<sup>h</sup> *System of Chemistry*, vol. iv.

<sup>i</sup> *Manchester Memoirs*, 2d series, ii. 29.

<sup>j</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. v.

<sup>k</sup> *Human Physiology*, § 549, Lond., 1842.

they play a most important part in the economy, by throwing off those substances, that might be injurious, if retained.

c. *Exhalation of the Mucous Membranes.*

The mucous membranes, like the skin, which they so strongly resemble in their structure, functions, and diseases, exhale a similar transpiratory fluid; which has not, however, been subjected to chemical examination. It is, indeed, almost impracticable to separate it from the follicular secretions, poured out from the same membrane; and from the extraneous substances almost always in contact with it. It is probably, however, similar to the fluid of the cutaneous and pulmonary depurations, both in character and use.

FOLLICULAR SECRETIONS.

The *follicular secretions* must, of necessity, be effected from the skin or the mucous membranes; as follicles or crypts are met with there only. They may, therefore, be divided into two classes;—1st, the *mucous follicular secretion*; and 2d, the *cutaneous follicular secretion*.

a. *Mucous Follicular Secretion.*

The whole extent of the great mucous membranes,—lining the alimentary canal, the air-passages, and the urinary and genital organs,—is the seat of a secretion, the product of which has received, in the abstract, the name of *mucus*; although it differs somewhat according to the situation and character of the particular follicles, whence it proceeds. Still, essentially, the structure, functions, and products of all mucous membranes are the same (see vol. i. p. 107). Such is the general opinion. M. Donné,\* however, classifies the different mucous membranes in three great divisions—according to their microscopical characters, the chemical reaction of the mucus, and the structure of the epithelium. His *first* division comprises those membranes that are analogous to the skin, or in other words, which secrete an acid fluid, containing, under the form of pellicles, or scales, the product of the desquamation of the epidermis. They are, in reality, but reflections of the outer skin, and in no respect deserve the name of mucous membranes. The vaginal mucous membrane is one of these, being a mere reflection of the outer skin, and possessing its principal properties. It secretes a mucus, which is always acid, strongly reddening litmus paper, and filled with soft, flattened lamellæ, or rather cells, exactly like the epidermic vesicles of the skin. In regard to its physiological properties, this membrane, like the skin, is endowed with exquisite sensibility; it is scarcely ever the seat of hemorrhage, and ulcerates less readily than the mucous membranes properly so called. These membranes with acid mucus and epidermic vesicles never, he says, exhibit any epidermic cells. The *second* division comprises the “true mucous membranes.” They differ from the skin in every respect,—both by the nature of their epithelium, and by the chemical reaction of their secretion, which is always alkaline. It is viscid, and, instead of exhibiting under the microscope the epidermic lamellæ or cellules, mentioned above, it

\* Cours de Microscopie, p. 143, Paris, 1844.

presents only mucous globules, whose structure, properties, and origin are entirely different. These membranes, of which the bronchial mucous membrane may be taken as the type, ulcerate readily; are the seat of hemorrhages, and do not possess tactile sensibility like the skin. To these belong the vibratile organs or cilia.

These two orders of membranes, according to M. Donné, are found approximated, and almost confounded, although still preserving their distinct characters, in the vagina and the neck of the uterus,—the one secreting a creamy, not ropy, and always acid mucus; and presenting, under the microscope, large epidermic cellules; the other furnishing a glairy, ropy mucus, constantly alkaline, and containing mucous globules much smaller than the epidermic cells, and of a structure and composition wholly different. The *third* division comprises a class intermediate between the two others, constituted by parts which participate in the organization of skin and mucous membranes, through surfaces which have not yet entirely lost the qualities of the external membrane, and which already possess some of those of the internal or true mucous membranes. Such are the orifices where the skin does not terminate suddenly, but becomes gradually transformed into mucous membrane, as at the mouth, nose, anus, &c. These parts secrete a mucus, which M. Donné terms *mixed*, in which are found combined the characters of the two already mentioned, with a predominance of the one or the other, according as the properties of the skin, or those of the mucous membranes, prevail. The mucus of the mouth he regards as an example of this intermediate species.<sup>a</sup>

In the history of the different functions, in which some of the mucous membranes are concerned, the uses of this secretion have been detailed; and in those that will hereafter have to engage attention, in which other mucous membranes are concerned, their uses will fall more conveniently under notice then. But few points will, therefore, require explanation at present.

The mucus, secreted by the nasal follicles, seems alone to have been subjected to chemical analysis. Fourcroy and Vauquelin<sup>b</sup> found it composed of precisely the same ingredients as the tears. According to the analysis of Berzelius,<sup>c</sup> its contents are as follows:—water, 933·7; mucus, 53·3; chlorides of potassium and sodium, 5·6; lactate of soda, with animal matter, 3·0; soda, 0·9; albumen and animal matter, soluble in water, but insoluble in alcohol, with a trace of phosphate of soda, 3·5. Dr. G. O. Rees<sup>d</sup> considers mucus to be a compound of albumen in a state of close combination with alkaline salts, and probably free alkali; and he affirms, that the artificial compound formed by the addition of alkalies and neutral salts to albuminous matter, is essentially the same as mucus.

<sup>a</sup> See, on the structure, relations, and offices of the Mucous Membranes, Mr. Bowman, art. Mucous Membrane, in Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., Parts xxiii. and xxiv., London, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Journal de Physique, xxxix. 359.  
<sup>c</sup> Med.-chirurg. Transactions, tom. iii.; also, Thomson, Chemistry of Animal Bodies, p. 507, Edinb. 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol. P. xxiii. p. 484, April, 1842. For a recent analysis of mucus by Nasse, see Ranking's Abstract, P. i. p. 341, Amer. edit., New York, 1845.

According to Raspail,<sup>a</sup> mucus is the mere product of the healthy and daily disorganization or wear and tear of the mucous membranes. Every mucous membrane, he affirms, exfoliates in organized layers, and is thrown off, more or less, in this form; whilst the serous membranes either do not exfoliate, or their exfoliation (*excoriation*) is resolved into the liquid form, to be again absorbed by the organs; but this—like many other of M. Raspail's speculations—is a generalization which does not appear to be warranted by the facts; the slightest examination, indeed, exhibits, that the general physical character of the mucus is very different from that of the membranes which form it: still, mucus, when examined by a microscope of high magnifying powers, does present, here and there, appearances of shreds similar to those described by Raspail. These have been considered by recent histologists<sup>b</sup> to be detached epithelium cells, with granulated globular particles, that are regarded as characteristic of the secretion from the surface of the mucous membranes.<sup>b</sup>

Although mucus is classed as a follicular secretion, it would seem to be formed in mucous membranes in which no follicles can be detected, as in those lining the frontal and other sinuses of the cranium.<sup>c</sup> Mandl,<sup>d</sup>—who first stated the belief in the identity of structure of the globules of mucus and pus and of the red corpuscles of the blood,—describes mucus as composed of a viscid liquid in which are swimming, besides a greater or less number of lamellæ of epithelium, special elements, which he calls *globules of mucus*. These are of two kinds,—the one consisting of *mammillated corpuscles*, 0·005 to 0·006 of a *millimètre* in diameter; the other, from 0·01 to 0·02 of a *millimètre* in diameter,—the latter being true cells, composed of an envelope and a nucleus.

The great use of mucus, wherever met with, is to lubricate the surface on which it is poured.<sup>e</sup> Recent experiments, however, by Oesterlen<sup>f</sup> have proved the influence of the layer of mucus, which lines the digestive canal, in retarding both the imbibition of fluids enclosed within the canal, and the permeation of fluids by endosmose. The passage of fluid into or through the mucous membrane of the intestines was, in many cases, more than twice as rapid when the mucus had been removed as whilst it was still adherent.

#### b. Follicular Secretion of the Skin.

This is the sebaceous and micaceous humour, observed in the skin of the cranium, and in that of the pavilion of the ear. It is also the humour, which occasionally gives the appearance of small worms beneath the skin of the face, when it is forced through the external

<sup>a</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 246, and p. 504, Paris, 1839.

<sup>b</sup> For the different forms of mucus, see Donné, op. cit. p. 145.

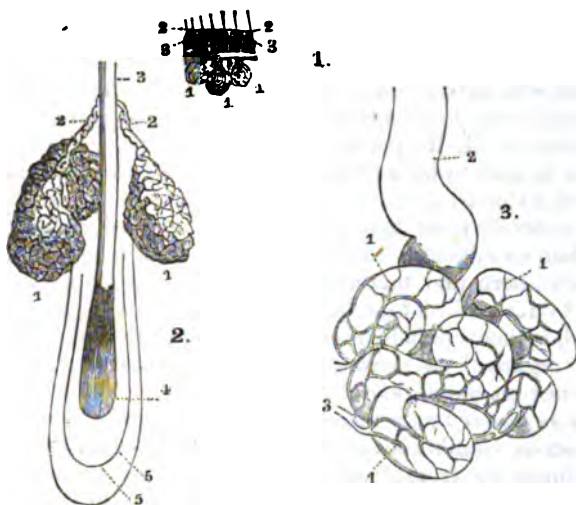
<sup>c</sup> Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 640, Lond. 1842.

<sup>d</sup> Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 478, Paris, 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, v. 235, Leipz. 1835.

<sup>f</sup> Beiträge zur Physiologie des Gesunden und Kranken Organismus, Jena, 1843, s. 241; cited by Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev. Jan. 1845, p. 257.

Fig. 246.

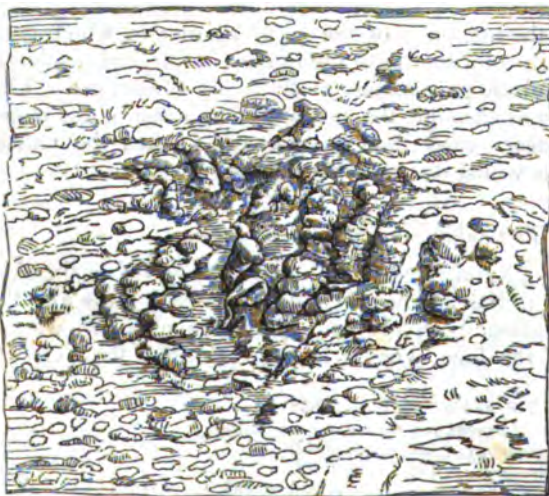


*Sebaceous or Oil Glands and Ceruminous Glands.*

1. Section of skin, magnified three diameters. 2, 2. Hair. 3, 3. Superficial sebaceous glands. 1, 1. Larger and deeper-seated glands by which the cerumen appears to be secreted. 3. A ceruminous gland more largely magnified, formed of convoluted tube 1, forming excretory duct 2. 3. A small vessel, and its branches. 2. A hair from meatus auditorius, perforating epidermis at 3, and at 4, contained within its double follicle, 5, 5. 1, 1. Sebaceous follicles of hair with their excretory ducts. —(Wagner.)

The cutaneous or miliary follicles or glands were referred to when describing the anatomy of the common integument (vol. i. p. 103). At times they are simple crypts, formed merely by an inflection of the common integument; at others they are more complicated, and they commonly open into the channels by which the hairs issue (Figs. 22 and 246 2.)

Fig. 247.



*Cutaneous Follicles or Glands of the Axilla, magnified one-third.—(Horner).*

\* Cited by V. Bruns, *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, s. 353, Braunschweig, 1841.

aperture of the follicle; and which, when exposed to the air, causes the black spots sometimes observable on the face.

The following were found to be its constituents, by Esenbeck: salt, 24.2; osmazome, with traces of oil, 12.6; watery extracts, 11.6; albumen and casein, 24.2; carbonate of lime, 2.1; phosphate of lime, 20.0; carbonate of magnesia, 1.6; acetate of soda, and chloride of sodium, traces.

In certain parts



of the skin, they are more numerous than in others. Their appearance in the axilla of the negro has recently been described by Professor Horner.\* Their granular or composite character in the axilla, he thinks, is sufficiently evident; but the point is yet to be settled, whether their excretory ducts have the tortuous arrangement of those of the ceruminous glands, or whether they be branched and racemose, like those of the salivary glands.

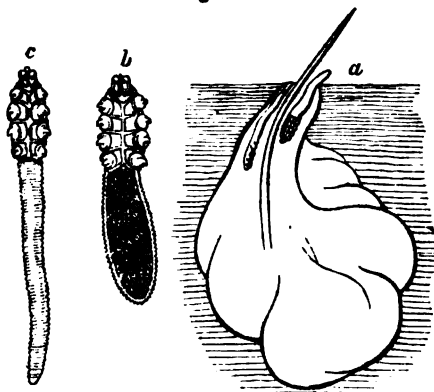
The secretion from the different cutaneous follicles differs, probably, according to the different character and arrangement of animal membrane from which the cells that form it are developed. There is, certainly, a marked difference between the fluids secreted in the axilla, groin, prepuce, feet, &c., each of these appearing to have its characteristic odour; although a part of this may be owing to changes occurring in the matter of secretion by retention in parts to which the free access of air is prevented. The cutaneous or miliary glands depicted by Professor Horner, are considered by him to be the *glandula odorifera* of the axilla. In many animals odorous secretions of a similar character are formed by special organs; but whether the scent peculiar to animals and to races is thus secreted has been already canvassed (p. 272), and must be regarded as unsettled.

The cerumen is, likewise, a follicular secretion, as well as the whitish, odorous and fatty matter—smegma—which forms under the prepuce of the male, and in the external parts of the female, where cleanliness is disregarded. The humour of Meibomius is also follicular, as well as that of the caruncula lachrymalis, the crypts around the base of the nipple, &c.

The use of these secretions is,—to favour the functions of the parts over which they are distributed. That which is secreted from the skin, is spread over the epidermis, hair, &c., giving suppleness and elasticity to the parts, rendering the surface smooth and polished, and thus obviating the evils of abrasion that might otherwise arise. It is also conceived that its unctuous nature may render the parts less permeable to humidity.<sup>b</sup>

In the ducts of the sebaceous follicles, a parasite was discovered by M. Simon, of Berlin;<sup>c</sup> which has been described by

Fig. 248.



Entozoa from the Sebaceous Follicles.

a. Two seen in their ordinary position in the orifice of one of the sebaceous follicles of the scalp. b. Short variety. c. Long variety.

\* American Journal of the Medical Sciences, for January, 1846, p. 13.

<sup>b</sup> Burdach, op. cit. vi. 245.

<sup>c</sup> Müller's Archiv., June, 1842.

Mr. Erasmus Wilson,<sup>a</sup> and by Messrs. Todd and Bowman.<sup>b</sup> By Mr. Wilson two chief varieties of the adult animal are described. These are mainly distinguished by their length—the one measuring from the  $\frac{1}{10}$ th to the  $\frac{1}{4}$ th, the other from the  $\frac{1}{10}$ th to the  $\frac{1}{15}$ th of an inch.

The marginal figure represents them as found by Messrs. Todd and Bowman in a sebaceous follicle of the scalp.

#### GLANDULAR SECRETIONS.

The glandular secretions are seven in number; those of the tears, saliva, pancreatic juice, bile, urine, sperm, and milk.

##### a. Secretion of the Tears.

The lachrymal apparatus, being a part of that accessory to vision, was described under another head (vol. i. p. 203). As we meet with the tears, they are not simply the secretion of the lachrymal gland, but of the conjunctiva, and occasionally of the caruncula lachrymalis and follicles of Meibomius. They have a saline taste; mix freely with water; and, owing to the presence of free soda, communicate a green tint to the blue infusion of violets. Their chief salts are the chloride of sodium, and phosphate of soda. According to Fourcroy and Vauquelin,<sup>c</sup> the animal matter of the tears is mucus; but it is presumed, by some, to be albumen or an analogous principle—*dacryolin*.

When the tears are examined with the microscope, globules of mucus, and *debris* of the epidermis, are seen in them.<sup>d</sup>

This secretion is more influenced by the emotions than any other; and hence it is concerned in the expressions of lively joy or sorrow, especially of the latter.

##### b. Secretion of the Saliva.

The salivary apparatus has likewise engaged attention elsewhere. It consists of a *parotid* gland on each side, situate in front of the ear, and behind the neck and ramus of the jaw; a *submaxillary*, beneath the body of the bone; and a *sublingual*, situate immediately beneath the tongue;—the parotids and submaxillary glands having each but one excretory duct,—the sublingual several. The structure of the salivary glands in man greatly resembles that of the mammary glands. The marginal figure (Fig. 249) exhibits their structure in man. All these glands pour their respective fluids into the mouth, where it collects, and becomes mixed with the exhalation of the mucous membrane of the mouth, and the secretion from its follicles. It is this mixed fluid that has generally been analyzed by the chemist. When collected, without the action of sucking, it is of a specific gravity, varying from 1004 to 1009,<sup>e</sup> translucent, slightly opaque, very frothy, and ultimately deposits a nebulous sediment. Even with the

<sup>a</sup> On Diseases of the Skin, Amer. edit., p. 351, and in Philosophical Transactions for 1844.

<sup>b</sup> The Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of Man, p. 425, Lond, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Journal de Physique, xxxix. 256. See, also, Thomson, Chemistry of Animal Bodies, p. 511, Edinb. 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 489, Paris, 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Dr. Julius Vogel, in Wagner's Elements of Physiology, § 144, London, 1842.

purest saliva there is always found mixed a few epithelial cells, derived from the mucous lining of the mouth, or from the excretory ducts of the secreting glands. It usually contains free alkali: in rare cases, during meals, Professor Schultz,<sup>a</sup> of Berlin, found it acid; and, during fasting, it is occasionally neutral. Mitscherlich,<sup>b</sup> indeed, affirms that it is acid whilst fasting, but becomes alkaline during eating,—the alkaline character disappearing at times with the first mouthful of food. The average amount of the secretion in the twenty-four hours does not probably exceed four ounces.<sup>c</sup> According to Berzelius,<sup>d</sup> its constituents are—water, 992.2; peculiar animal matter, 2.9; mucus, 1.4; chlorides of potassium and sodium, 1.7; lactate of soda, and animal matter, 0.9; soda, 0.2. Drs. Bostock<sup>e</sup> and Thomas Thomson<sup>f</sup> think, that the “mucus” of Berzelius resembles coagulated albumen in its properties. In the tartar of the teeth, which seems to be a sediment from the saliva, Berzelius found 79 parts of earthy phosphate; 12.5 of undecomposed mucus; 1 part of a matter peculiar to the saliva, and 7.8 of an animal matter soluble in chlorohydric acid. This animal matter, according to the microscopic experiments of Raspail,<sup>g</sup> is composed of the deciduous fragments from the mucous membrane of the cavity of the mouth; and he considers, that the saliva is nothing more than an albuminous solution, mixed with different salts, which are capable of more or less modifying its solubility in water, and of shreds or layers of tissue. MM. Leuret and Lasaigne<sup>h</sup> analyzed *pure* saliva, obtained from an individual labouring under salivary fistula, and found it to contain,—water, mucus, traces of albumen, soda, chloride of potassium, chloride of sodium, carbonate and phosphate of lime:—and Messrs. Tiedemann and Gmelin<sup>i</sup> affirm,—and their analysis agrees pretty closely with that of Van Setten<sup>j</sup>—that the saliva contains only one or two hundredths of solid matter, which are composed of a peculiar substance, called *salivary matter* or *ptyalin*, osmazome, mucus, perhaps albumen, a little fat containing phosphorus, and the insoluble salts—phosphate and carbonate of lime. Besides these, they detected the following soluble salts;—acetate, carbonate, phosphate, sulphate, muriate, and sulpho-

Fig. 249.



A small portion of the parotid of a new-born infant, filled with mercury and magnified five diameters.—(Weber.)

<sup>a</sup> Hecker, *Wissenschaftliche Annalen*, B. ii. H. 1, § 32, 1835.

<sup>b</sup> Rullier and Raige-Delorme, in art. Digestion, *Dict. de Médecine*, 2de édit. x. 300, Paris, 1835.

<sup>c</sup> Mitscherlich, *Rust's Magazine*, Bd. xxxvi. S. 491.

<sup>d</sup> *Medico-chirurgical Transactions*, iii. 242; also, Thomson, *Chemistry of Animal Bodies*, p. 389, Edinb. 1843.

<sup>e</sup> *Physiol. ed. cit.* p. 487.

<sup>f</sup> *Nouveau Système de Chimie Organique*, p. 454.

<sup>g</sup> *Recherches, &c., sur la Digestion*, p. 38, Paris, 1826.

<sup>h</sup> *Recherches, &c., sur la Digestion*, par Jourdan, Paris, 1827.

<sup>i</sup> *De Salivâ ejusque Vi et Utilitate*, Groning. 1837; and *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Jan. 1839, p. 236.

<sup>j</sup> *System of Chemistry*, vol. iv.

cyanate of potassa.\* Treviranus<sup>b</sup> thinks the saliva contains a peculiar acid, to which he gives the name *Blausäure*, properly combined with an alkali; but its chemical properties resemble the sulpho-cyanic acid so greatly, that according to Kastner<sup>c</sup> they may be taken for each other. Recently, the saliva has been carefully analyzed by Enderlin,<sup>d</sup> who concludes that, like the blood, it contains no lactate, carbonate, or acetate; but that its alkaline reaction is owing to the tribasic phosphate of soda, which serves also as the solvent of the mucus and protein compounds. The analysis of the ashes obtained from a very large quantity afforded, in 100 parts:

Tribasic phosphate of soda,	-	-	-	-	-	28.122
Chlorides of sodium and potassium,	-	-	-	-	-	61.93
Sulphate of soda,	-	-	-	-	-	2.315
Phosphate of lime,	}	-	-	-	-	5.509
“       magnesia,						
“       iron.						

Messrs. Tiedemann and Gmelin, and M. Donn  ,<sup>e</sup> found the saliva invariably alkaline, when the functions of the stomach were well performed. The latter gentleman considered acidity of the stomach a diagnostic symptom of gastritis; and Dr. Robt. Thomson<sup>f</sup> found the acid reaction in all cases of inflammation of the mucous and serous membranes. With the view of testing these results, Mr. Laycock<sup>g</sup> instituted numerous experiments, and affords the tabular results of no less than 567 observations. His deductions do not accord with those of M. Donn  . They are as follows:—1. The saliva may be acid without any apparent disease of the stomach, and when the individual is in good health. 2. It is alkaline during different degrees of gastric derangement, as indicated by the tongue. 3. It may be alkaline, acid and neutral, when the gastric phenomena are the same; and, consequently, acidity of the saliva is not a diagnostic mark of gastric derangement; and, lastly—in general it is alkaline in the morning, and acid in the evening.

In a more recent work M. Donn  <sup>h</sup> accounts for the different testimony of different observers in regard to the chemical reaction of the saliva, by the greater or less proportion of the mucus of the mouth contained in the specimens subjected to examination. In the normal state, he affirms, it is alkaline, but the mucus secreted by the mucous membrane of the mouth being acid, the mixed fluid, to which the name saliva is given, must necessarily vary according to the proportion of each.

When saliva is examined by the microscope, it presents, besides a considerable number of lamell   of epithelium, globules in variable

\* Magendie's *Pr  cis El  mentaire*, ii. 63; and Burdach's *Physiologie*, u. s. w., v. 251, Leipz. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> *Biologie*, Band. iv. § 330.

<sup>c</sup> Ficinus, in art. *Speichel*, in *Pierer's Anat. Physiol. Real W  rterbuch*, vii. 634, Altenb. 1827.

<sup>d</sup> *Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie*, Marz, 1844, cited by Mr. Paget, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* for Jan. 1845, p. 268.

<sup>e</sup> *Archives G  n  rales*, Mai & Juin, 1835; and *Histoire Physiologique et Pathologique de la Salive*, Paris, 1836.

<sup>f</sup> *Records of General Science*, Dec. 1836.

<sup>g</sup> *Lond. Med. Gazette*, Oct. 7, 1837. See, also, for a detailed account of the saliva, Dr. S. Wright, *Lond. Lancet*, vols. 1 and 2, for 1841–2.

<sup>h</sup> *Cours de Microscopie*, p. 208, Paris, 1844.

quantity, which, according to Mandl,<sup>a</sup> proceed partly from the muciparous glands of the mouth, and partly from the salivary glands. These cannot, however, be distinguished from each other.

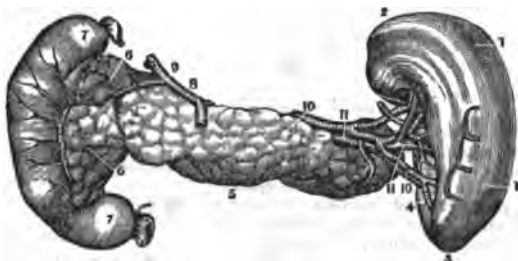
As the salivary secretion forms a part in the processes preparatory to stomachal digestion, its uses have been detailed in the first volume of this work, to which the reader is referred. The views of Bernard and Barreswill, and of Mialhe, that the saliva contains an active principle, analogous in its physical and chemical characters to diastase, are there described.

A soft, whitish or yellowish matter, of greater or less thickness, is constantly deposited on the teeth, which, unless attention is paid, accumulates, and sometimes adheres to them with great force, constituting hard and dry concretions, known—as already remarked—under the name of *tartar* or *tartar of the teeth*. Different views have existed in regard to its origin. Some have supposed it to be a secretion, others a deposition from the saliva, which is the most probable opinion; and others that it is an exhalation from the capillary vessels, to which the mucous membrane of diseased gums is liable. It has been affirmed by M. Mandl,<sup>b</sup> to be a collection of calcareous skeletons of infusoria, agglutinated by means of dried mucus.

### c. Secretion of the Pancreatic Juice.

The *pancreas* or *sweetbread*, (Fig. 250, 5,) secretes a juice or humour, called *sucus pancreaticus* or *pancreatic juice*. Its texture resembles that of the salivary glands; and hence it has been called by some the *abdominal salivary gland*. It is situated transversely in the abdomen, behind the stomach, towards the concavity of the duodenum; is about six inches in length, and

Fig. 250.



Anterior View of Pancreas, Spleen, and Duodenum, with their Blood-vessels Injected.

between three and four ounces in weight. From the results of six examinations, Dr. Gross<sup>c</sup> gives the following as the mean weight and dimensions. Weight  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ounces; length, 7 inches; breadth at the body and splenic extremity,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  lines; breadth at the neck, 12 lines; at the head, 2 inches and 3 lines; thickness at the body, neck, and splenic extremity, 4 lines; thickness at the head, 8 lines. Bécourt found the average length of thirty-two to be 8 inches; and the weight

<sup>a</sup> Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 488, Paris, 1843.

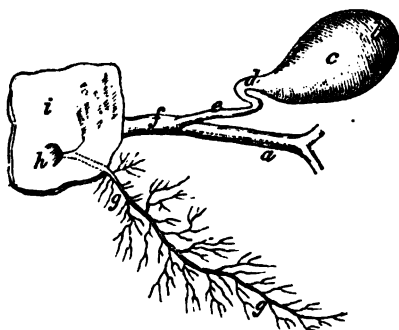
<sup>b</sup> Gazette des Hôpitaux, 8 Août, 1843, p. 363.

<sup>c</sup> Elements of Pathological Anatomy, ii. 357, Boston, 1839.

between three and four ounces.<sup>a</sup> It is of a reddish-white colour, and firm consistence. Its excretory ducts terminate in one,—called the duct of Wirsung,—which opens into the duodenum, at times separately from the ductus communis choledochus, but close to it; at other times, being confounded with or opening into it.<sup>b</sup>

The amount of fluid, secreted by the pancreas, does not seem to be considerable. Magendie, in his experiments, was struck with the small quantity discharged. Frequently, scarcely a drop issued in half an hour; and, occasionally, a much longer time elapsed. Nor did he find that the flow, according to the common opinion and to probability, was more rapid whilst digestion was going on. It will be readily understood, therefore, that it cannot be an easy task to collect it. De Graaf,<sup>c</sup> a Dutch anatomist, affirms, that he succeeded, by introducing into the intestinal end of the excretory duct, a small quill,

Fig. 251.



Biliary and Pancreatic Ducts.

a. Hepatic duct, formed by a branch from right and one from the left lobe of liver. b. Fundus of gall-bladder. c, d. Body and neck of gall-bladder. e. Cystic duct. f. Ductus communis choledochus. g, h. Trunk and branches of pancreatic duct. i. Termination of ductus communis choledochus and ductus pancreaticus. i. Duodenum.

terminating in a phial fixed under the belly of the animal. Magendie,<sup>d</sup> however, states, that he tried this plan several times, but without success; and he believes it to be impracticable. The plan he adopts is to expose the intestinal orifice of the duct; to wipe, with a fine cloth, the surrounding mucous membrane; and as soon as a drop of the fluid oozes, to suck it up by means of a *pipette* or small glass tube. In this way, he collected a few drops, but never sufficient to undertake a satisfactory analysis. Messrs. Tiedemann and Gmelin<sup>e</sup> make an incision into the abdomen; draw out the duodenum, and a part of the pancreas; and, opening

the excretory duct, insert a tube into it; and a similar plan was adopted successfully on a horse by MM. Leuret and Lassaigne.<sup>f</sup> The difficulty, experienced in collecting a due quantity, is a probable cause of some of the discrepancy amongst observers, regarding its sensible and chemical properties. Some of the older physiologists affirm it to be acidulous and saline; others assert that it is alkaline.<sup>g</sup> The majority of those of the present day compare it with the saliva, and affirm it to be inodorous, insipid, viscid, limpid, and of a bluish-white colour.<sup>h</sup> The latest experimenters by no means accord with each

<sup>a</sup> Recherches sur le Pancréas, ses Fonctions et ses Altérations Organiques, Thèse, Strasbourg, 1830, cited by Mondière, Archives Générales de Médecine, Mai, 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Précis Elémentaire, i. 462; J. P. Mondière, op. cit.

<sup>c</sup> Tract. de Pancreat. Lugd. Bat. 1761; Haller, Elem. Physiol. lib. xxii.

<sup>d</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 462.

<sup>e</sup> Recherches, &c., i. 41.

<sup>f</sup> Recherches, &c., p. 49.

<sup>g</sup> Haller, Elem. Physiol. vi. 10; and Seiler, in art. Pancreas, Pierer's Anat. Physiol. Real Wörterb. Band. vi. 100, Altenb. 1825.

<sup>h</sup> Fourcroy and Thomson, in their Systems of Chemistry.

other. According to Magendie, it is of a slightly yellowish hue, saline taste, devoid of smell, occasionally alkaline, and partly coagulable by heat. MM. Leuret and Lassaigne found that of the horse,—of which they obtained three ounces,—to be alkaline, and composed of 991 parts of water in 1000; of an animal matter, soluble in alcohol; another, soluble in water; traces of albumen and mucus; free soda; chloride of sodium; chloride of potassium, and phosphate of lime. In their view, consequently, the pancreatic juice strongly resembles saliva. MM. Tiedemann and Gmelin succeeded in obtaining upwards of two drachms of the juice in four hours; and, in 100 parts, they found from five to eight of solid. These solid parts consisted of osmazome; a matter which became red by chlorine; another analogous to casein, and probably associated with salivary matter; much albumen; a little free acid, probably the acetic; the acetate, phosphate, and sulphate of soda, with a little potassa; chloride of potassium, and carbonate and phosphate of lime:—so that, according to these gentlemen, the pancreatic juice differs from the saliva in containing—a little free acid, whilst the saliva is alkaline; much albumen, and matter resembling casein; but little mucus and salivary matter, and no sulpho-cyanate of potassa.\*

In a recent examination, by M. Blondlot,<sup>b</sup> of three or four grammes of fluid obtained from the duct of a large dog, he found no evidences of albumen, when he passed an electric current through it. He, also, holds it to be of the same nature as the saliva.

The precise use of the pancreatic juice in digestion—as we have previously seen—is not determined. Brunner<sup>c</sup> removed almost the whole pancreas from dogs, and tied and cut away portions of the duct; yet they lived apparently as well as ever. The secretion, therefore, cannot be indispensable. Its main uses appear to be the same as those of the saliva.

#### d. Secretion of the Bile.

The biliary secretion is, also, a digestive fluid, of which we have spoken in the appropriate place. The mode, however, in which the process is effected, has not yet been investigated. The apparatus consists of the *liver*, which accomplishes the formation of the fluid; the *hepatic duct*,—the excretory channel, by which the bile is discharged; the *gall-bladder*, in which a portion of the bile is retained for a time; the *cystic duct*,—the excretory channel of the gall-bladder; and the *ductus communis choledochus*, or *choledoch duct*, formed by the union of the hepatic and cystic ducts, and which conveys the bile immediately into the duodenum.

The *liver*, (Fig. 252) is the largest gland in the body; situate in the abdomen beneath the diaphragm, above the stomach, the arch of the colon, and the duodenum; filling the whole of the

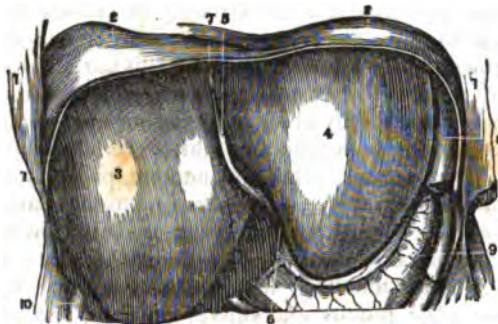
\* Burdach's Physiologie, u. s. w., v. 257, Leipz. 1835; and Thomson, Chemistry of Animal Bodies, p. 403, Edinb. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Traité Analytique de la Digestion, p. 124, Paris, 1844.

<sup>c</sup> Experimenta nova circa Pancreas, Amstel. 1683; and J. T. Monnière, op. cit., in a Mémoire, crowned by the Société Médicale d'Emulation, of Paris, and entitled "Recherches pour servir à l'Histoire Pathologique du Pancreas."

right hypochondrium, and more or less of the epigastrium, and fixed in its situation by duplicatures of the peritoneum, called *ligaments of the liver*. The weight of the human liver is generally, in the adult, about three or four pounds. Some make the average about five pounds;<sup>a</sup> but this is a large estimate. Of 60 male livers weighed,

Fig. 252.



*Liver in situ, together with the parts adjoining, in a New-born Infant.*

1. 1. Integuments of abdomen turned back. 2. 2. Thoracic surface of a section of diaphragm. 3. Anterior face of right lobe of the liver. 4. Left lobe. 5. Suspensory ligament. 6. Round ligament. 7. Point of origin of coronary ligament. 8. Spleen. 9. Section of the stomach. 10. Upper portion of the colon.

kidney. On the latter surface, two *fissures* are observable;—the one passing from before to behind, and lodging the umbilical vein in the foetus—called the *horizontal sulcus* or *fissure*, *great fissure* or *fossa umbilicalis*; the other cutting the last at right angles, and running from right to left, by which the different nerves and vessels proceed to and from the liver, and called the *principal fissure*, or *sulcus transversus*.

The liver itself is composed of the following anatomical elements:

1. The *hepatic artery*, a branch of the coeliac, which ramifies minutely through the substance of the organ. The minuter branches of this artery are arranged somewhat like the hairs in a painter's brush, and have hence been called the *penicilli* of the liver. Mr. Kiernan<sup>c</sup> believes, that the blood, which enters the liver by the hepatic artery, fulfils three functions:—it nourishes the organ; supplies the excretory ducts with mucus; and, having fulfilled these objects, it becomes venous; enters the branches of the portal veins, and not the radicles of the hepatic, as usually supposed, and contributes to the secretion of bile. 2. The *vena porta*, which we have elsewhere seen to be the common trunk of all the veins of the digestive organs and of the spleen. It divides like an artery, its branches accompanying

<sup>a</sup> W. J. E. Wilson, art. Liver, Cyclop. of Anat. and Phys. Sept. 1840.

<sup>b</sup> Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journ. of Med. Sciences, April, 1843, p. 323.

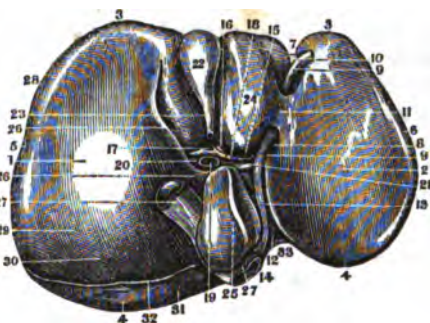
<sup>c</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1833, p. 711. See, also, Elliotson's Human Physiology, p. 93, Lond. 1840.

Dr. John Reid<sup>b</sup> found the average weight to be 52 oz. 12½ dr.: and of 25 female, 45 oz. 3½ dr. In disease, however, it sometimes weighs twenty or twenty-five pounds; and, at other times, not as many ounces. Its shape is irregular, and it is divided into three chief lobes, the *right*, the *left*, and the *lobulus Spigelii*. Its upper convex surface touches every where the arch of the diaphragm. The lower concave surface corresponds to the stomach, colon, and right



those of the hepatic artery. Where the vein lies in the transverse fissure, it is of great size, and has hence been called *sinus vena portæ*. The possession of two vascular systems, containing blood, is peculiar, perhaps, to the liver, and has been the cause of some difference of opinion, with regard to the precise material—arterial or venous—from which the bile is derived. According to Mr. Kiernan, the portal vein fulfils two functions: it carries the blood from the hepatic artery, and the mixed blood to the coats of the excretory ducts. This vessel has been called *vena arteriosa*, because it ramifies like an artery, and conveys blood for secreting: but, as Mr. Kiernan has observed, it is an *arterial vein* in another sense, as it is a vein to the hepatic artery, and an artery to the hepatic vein. 3. The *excretory ducts* or *biliary ducts*. These are presumed to arise from acini, communicating, according to some, with the extremities of the *vena portæ*; according to others, with radicles of the hepatic artery; whilst others have considered, that the radicles of the hepatic ducts have blind extremities, and that the capillary blood-vessels which secrete the bile, ramify on them. This last arrangement of the biliary apparatus in the liver was well shown in an interesting pathological case, which fell

Fig. 253.



*Inferior or Concave Surface of Liver, showing its Subdivisions into Lobes.*

1. Centre of right lobe. 2. Centre of left lobe. 3. Its anterior, inferior or thin margin. 4. Its posterior, thick or diaphragmatic portion. 5. Right extremity. 6. Left extremity. 7. Notch on the anterior margin. 8. Umbilical or longitudinal fissure. 9. Round ligament or remains of umbilical vein. 10. Portion of the suspensory ligament in connexion with the round ligament. 11. Pons hepatis, or band of liver across the umbilical fissure. 12. Posterior end of longitudinal fissure. 13. 14. Attachment of obliterated ductus venosus to ascending vena cava. 15. Transverse fissure. 16. Section of hepatic duct. 17. Hepatic artery. 18. Its branches. 19. Vena portæ. 20. Its sinus, or division into right and left branches. 21. Fibrous remains of ductus venosus. 22. Gall bladder. 23. Its neck. 24. Lobulus quartus. 25. Lobulus Spigelii. 26. Lobulus caudatus. 27. Inferior vena cava. 28. Curvature of liver to fit ascending colon. 29. Depression to fit right kidney. 30. Upper portion of its right concave surface over renal capsule. 31. Portion of liver uncovered by peritoneum. 32. Inferior edge of coronary ligament in the liver. 33. Depression made by vertebral column.

under the care of Professor Hall, in the Baltimore Infirmary, and which was examined after death in the author's presence. The particulars of the case have been detailed, with some interesting remarks by Professor Geddings.\* In this case, in consequence of cancerous matter obstructing the ductus communis choledochus, the whole excretory apparatus of the liver was enormously distended; the common duct was dilated to the size of the middle finger: at the point where the two branches that form the hepatic duct emerge from the gland, they were large enough to receive the tip of the middle finger; and as they were proportionately dilated to their radicles, in the intimate tissue of the liver, their termination in a blind extremity was clearly

\* North American Archives of Medical and Surgical Science, for June, 1835, p. 157.

exhibited. These blind extremities were closely clustered together, and the ducts, proceeding from them, were seen to converge, and to terminate in the main trunk for the corresponding lobe. At their commencement, the excretory ducts are termed *pori biliarii*. These ultimately form two or three large trunks, which issue from the liver by the transverse fissure, and end in the *hepatic duct*. 4. *Lymphatic vessels*. 5. *Nerves*, in small number, compared with the size of the liver, some proceeding from the eighth pair; but the majority from the solar plexus, and following the course and divisions of the hepatic artery. 6. The *supra-hepatic veins* or *venæ cavæ hepaticæ*, which arise in the liver by imperceptible radicles, communicating, according to common belief, with the final ramifications of both the hepatic artery and vena portæ; according to Mr. Kiernan occupying the centre of the lobules—and hence termed *intralobular veins*. They return the superfluous blood, carried to the liver by these vessels, by means of two or three trunks, and six or seven branches, which open into the vena cava inferior. These veins generally pass, in a convergent manner, towards the posterior margin of the liver, and cross the divisions of the vena portæ at right angles. 7. The remains of the umbilical vein, which, in the fœtus, enters at the horizontal fissure. This vein, after respiration is established, becomes converted into a ligamentous substance, called, from its shape, *ligamentum rotundum* or *round ligament*.

The parenchyma, or substance formed by these anatomical elements, it is difficult to describe; and,

although the term *liver-coloured* is used in common parlance, it is not easy to say what are the ideas attached to it.

The views of Mr. Kiernan, in regard to the intimate structure of the liver, which have been embraced by so many anatomists, may be understood by the accompanying illustrations, taken from his communications on the subject. The acini, to which allusion has been made, are termed by him *lobules*. Fig. 254, 1, exhibits some of the cells of which the lobules are composed, seen under a magnifying power of 200 diameters. 2, represents a longitudinal section of a lobule with ramifications of the hepatic vein: and Fig. 255, the connexion of the lobules with the same vein;—the centre of each being occupied by a venous twig—or intralobular vein. Fig. 256 represents the lobules as seen on the surface of the liver when divided transversely. In this, 2, exhibits the interlobular spaces; 3, interlobular fissures; 4, intralobular veins occupying the centres of the lobules; and 5,

Fig. 254.



*Lobules of Liver.*

Fig. 255.



*Connexion of Lobules of Liver with Hepatic Vein.*

1. Hepatic vein. 2, 2, 2. Lobules, each containing an intralobular or hepatic twig.

In this, 2, exhibits the interlobular spaces; 3, interlobular fissures; 4, intralobular veins occupying the centres of the lobules; and 5,

smaller veins terminating on the central veins. Fig. 257, exhibits a similar section of three lobules, showing the arrangement of the two principal systems of blood-vessels; 1, 1, being intralobular veins; and 2, 2, interlobular plexus formed by branches of the vena porta.

Fig. 256.

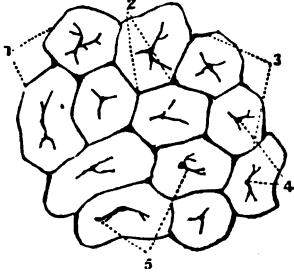
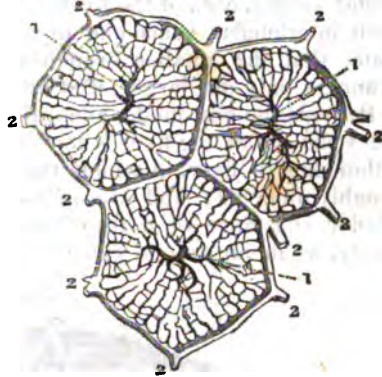
*Transverse Section of Lobules of the Liver.*

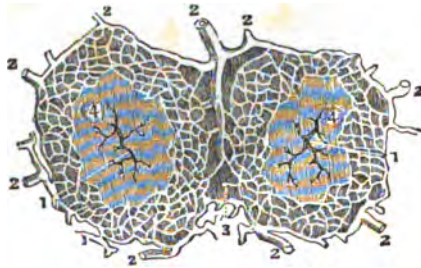
Fig. 257.

*Horizontal Section of three Superficial Lobules, showing the two principal Systems of Blood-vessels.*

Lastly, Fig. 258 represents a horizontal section of two superficial lobules, showing the interlobular plexus of biliary ducts: 1, 1, being the intralobular veins; 2, 2, trunks of biliary ducts, proceeding from the plexus, which traverses the lobules; 3, interlobular tissue; and 4, the parenchyma of the lobules.

It is from this arrangement of the blood-vessels and biliary ducts, that Mr. Kiernan infers the bile must be secreted from the portal vessels, which alone surround the lobules; the intralobular ramifications of the hepatic veins conveying back the blood to the heart, which has been inservient to the secretion. The views of Mr. Kiernan have been generally adopted by anatomists. Wagner, however, whilst he regards the beautiful figures and descriptions of Mr. Kiernan as the best he has seen, asserts, that they very certainly also include many mistakes; whilst Krause "combats the views of Kiernan, holding them to be hypothetical;" and E. H. Weber<sup>b</sup> and Kronenberg<sup>c</sup> likewise oppose them. The chief point, according to Mr. Paget, in which the accounts of these gentlemen differ from Mr. Kiernan's, is in denying

Fig. 258.

*Horizontal Section of two Superficial Lobules, showing interlobular Plexus of Biliary Ducts.*

<sup>a</sup> Wagner, *Elements of Physiology*, by R. Willis, § 195, Lond. 1842.

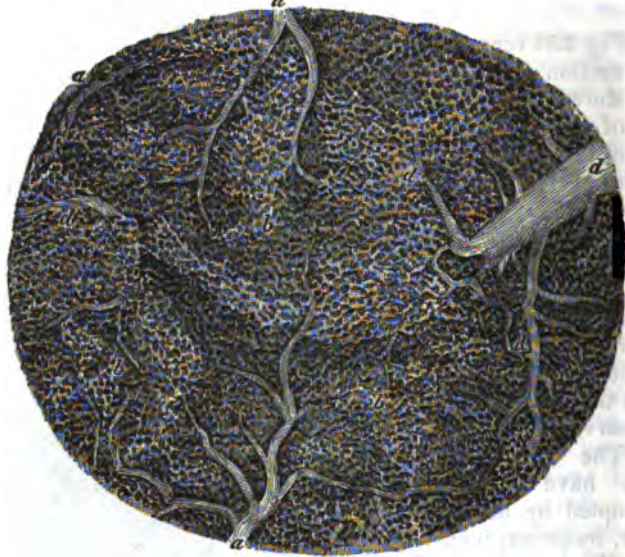
<sup>b</sup> Müller's Archiv., 1844, Heft 3, cited by Mr. Paget, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Jan. 1845, p. 274.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

that the component parts of the liver are arranged in lobules. They, with Henle and Mr. Bowman, describe the capillary networks as solid,—that is, extending uniformly through the liver. They also deny the existence of any fibro-cellular partitions dividing the liver into lobules, as maintained by Mr. Kiernan and J. Müller;<sup>a</sup> and even the existence of more fibro-cellular tissue than serves to invest the larger vessels, &c., of the liver. They deny, also, that there are any such interlobular veins and fissures as Mr. Kiernan describes, and state, that the smaller branches of these veins communicate by branches only just larger, if at all larger, than capillaries.<sup>b</sup>

Perhaps the best mode, according to Dr. Budd,<sup>c</sup> to get an idea of the structure of the liver is to examine under the microscope,—*first*, a thin slice of liver, in which the portal and hepatic veins are thoroughly injected; and *secondly*,—a small particle taken from the lobular substance of a fresh liver, in which the blood-vessels are empty, as in an animal killed by bleeding. The annexed wood-cut,

Fig. 259.



*Minute Portal and Hepatic Veins and Capillaries.*

*a, a.* Twigs of the portal vein. *d.* Twig of the hepatic vein. *b.* Intermediate capillaries.

from a specimen by Mr. Bowman, represents, on a magnified scale, a small branch of the hepatic vein, two or three branches of the portal vein, and the intermediate capillaries. The capillaries appear to have nearly the same relation to the branches of the portal vein as they have to those of the hepatic vein. It is difficult to tell, from this specimen, which branch is portal, and which hepatic,—the smaller branches of both being, as it were, hairy with capillaries

<sup>a</sup> Ibid.

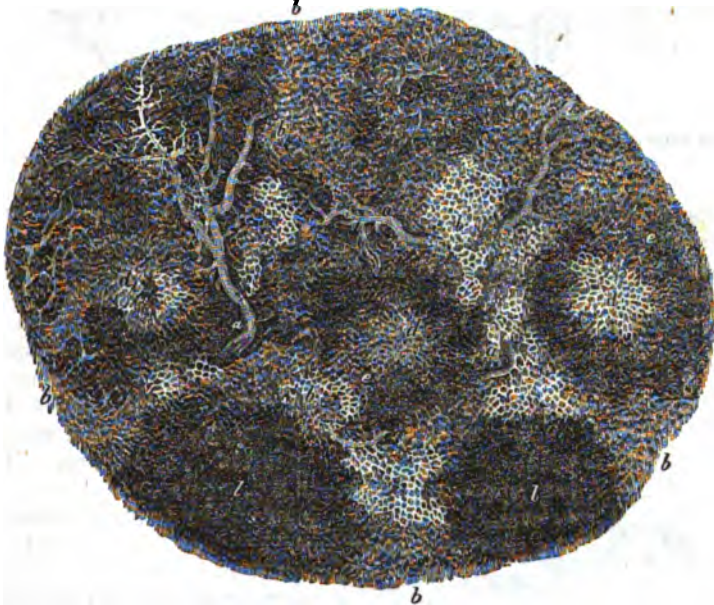
<sup>b</sup> See on all this subject the paper of Mr. Paget referred to.

<sup>c</sup> On Diseases of the Liver, Amer. edit., p. 17, Philad. 1846.



springing directly from them on every side, and forming a close and continuous network. Dr. Budd thinks, that the injected preparations of Mr. Bowman show clearly, that the opinion of Malpighi, Kiernan, Müller, and others, that the lobules are isolated from each other, each being invested by a layer of areolar or cellular tissue, is erroneous; and that the lobules are not distinct, isolated bodies, but merely small masses, tolerably defined by the ultimate twigs of the portal vein, and the injected or uninjected capillaries immediately contiguous to them. The ultimate twigs of the vein are, as it were, hairy with capillaries springing directly from them on every side, and forming a close and continuous network. The lobules, according to Dr. Budd, appear distinct isolated bodies only when seen by too low a power to clearly distinguish the capillaries. The real nature of the lobules, and the manner in which they are formed, will perhaps be better understood, he thinks, by reference to the subjoined illustration, (Fig. 260,) for

Fig. 260.

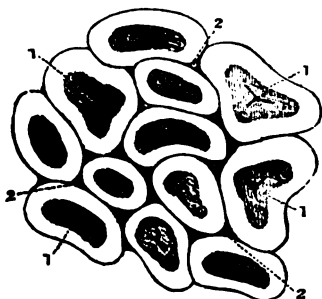
*Lobules of the Liver magnified.*

*a, a, a.* Minute twigs of the portal vein. *b, b, b.* Capillaries immediately springing from them, and serving with them to mark the outline of the lobules. *d, d, d.* Capillaries in the centre of the lobules, injected through the hepatic vein. *e, e.* places at which the size injected into the portal vein has met that injected into the hepatic vein, so that all the intermediate capillaries are coloured and conspicuous. *l, l.* Centres of lobules into which the injection has not passed through the hepatic vein.

which he expresses his indebtedness to Mr. Bowman. It represents, on a magnified scale, six lobules of the liver, and was made from a drawing under the microscope of a section of the liver of a cat, partially injected through the portal vein, and also through the hepatic vein.

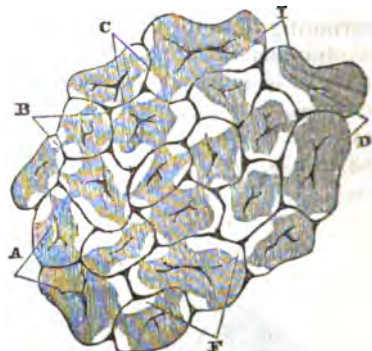
Mr. Kiernan has proceeded to deduce interesting pathological inferences from the anatomical arrangement which he conceives to exist; thus, he considers that the lobules may be congested by accumulation of blood in the hepatic or in the portal venous system; and that this may be detected by a minute inspection of the lobules. The precise causes of this are referred to in another work.\* The subjoined illustrations will be sufficient here. Fig. 261 represents the lobules

Fig. 261.



First Stage of Hepatic Venous Congestion.—  
(Kiernan.)

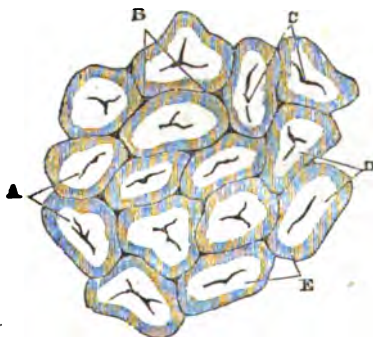
Fig. 262.



Second Stage of Hepatic Venous Congestion.—  
(Kiernan.)

in the *first stage* of what he terms *hepatic venous congestion*, or congestion of the terminations of the hepatic vein: 2, representing the interlobular spaces and fissures. In Fig. 262, the lobules are in the *second stage*. B and C, representing the interlobular spaces; D, congested intralobular or hepatic veins; I, congested patches extending to the circumference of the lobules; and F, the uncongested portions. Lastly, in Fig. 263, the lobules are in a state of *portal venous congestion*. This is not a common occurrence. It has been seen by Mr. Kiernan in children only. The view of Mr. Kiernan has also been held to explain the diversity of the statement of anatomists as to the relative position of the *red* and *yellow* substances, which have been considered to compose the liver: the red is the congested portion of the lobules, whilst the yellow is the non-congested portion in which the biliary plexus appears more or less distinctly.<sup>b</sup>

Fig. 263.



Portal Venous Congestion.  
B. Interlobular spaces and fissures. C. Intra-lobular veins. D. Anæmic portions. E. Congested portions.—(Kiernan.)

The liver has two coats;—the outer, derived from the peritoneum,

\* See the author's *Practice of Medicine*, vol. ii., 2d edit., Philad. 1844.

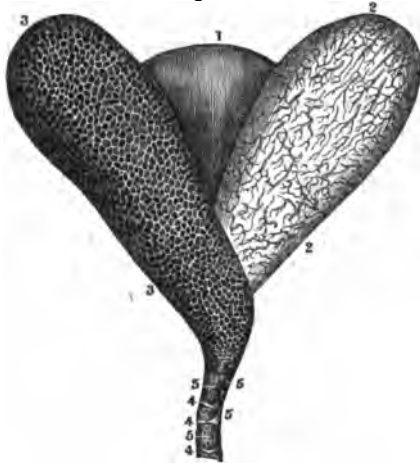
<sup>b</sup> Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 658, Lond. 1842.

which is very thin, transparent, easily lacerable, and vascular, and is the seat of the secretion effected by serous membranes in general. It does not cover the posterior part, or the excavation for the gall-bladder, the vena cava, or the fissures in the concave surface of the liver. The inner coat is the proper membrane of the liver. It is thin, but not easily torn, and it covers not only every part of the surface of the liver, but also the large vessels that are proper to the organ. The condensed cellular substance,—which unites the sinus of the vena portæ and its two great branches, the hepatic artery, the common biliary duct, lymphatic glands, lymphatic vessels, and nerves in the transverse fossa or fissure of the liver,—was described by Glisson as a capsule; and hence has been called the *capsule of Glisson*. It connects the various anatomical elements of the liver together.

The *gall-bladder*, (Figs. 251 and 264,) is a small membranous pouch, of a pyriform shape, situate at liver, to which it is attached, and above the colon and duodenum. A quantity of bile is usually found in it. It is not met with in all animals. It is wanting in the elephant, horse, stag, camel, rhinoceros, and goat; in certain of the cetacea; in some birds, as the ostrich, pigeon, and parrot; and is occasionally wanting in man. No traces of it are met with in the invertebrata. It may be looked upon as a dilatation

of the gall-ducts, and adapted for the reception and retention of bile. Its largest part, or *fundus*, Fig. 251, is turned forwards; and, when filled, frequently projects beyond the anterior margin of the liver. Its narrowest portion, cervix or neck, is turned backwards,

Fig. 264.

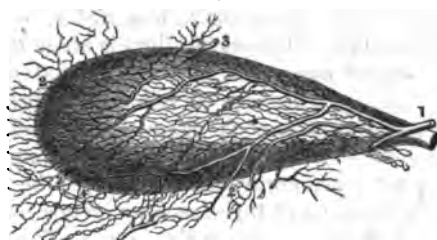


The three Coats of Gall-bladder separated from each other.

1. External or peritoneal coat. 2. Cellular coat with its vessels injected. 3. Mucous coat covered with wrinkles. 4, 4. Valves formed by this coat in the neck of gall-bladder. 5, 5. Orifices of mucous follicles at this point.

the inferior and concave surface of the

Fig. 265.



Gall-bladder distended with Air, and with its Vessels Injected.

1. Cystic artery. 2. Branches of it which supply the peritoneal coat of the liver. 3. Branch of the hepatic artery which goes to gall-bladder. 4. Lymphatics of gall-bladder.

and terminates in the cystic duct. Externally, it is partly covered by the peritoneum, which attaches it to the liver, and to which it is, moreover, adherent by cellular tissue and vessels. Internally, it is rugous; the folds being reticulated, and appearing somewhat like the cells of a honeycomb.

Anatomists have differed with regard to the number of coats proper to the gall-bladder. Some have described two only;—the peritoneal and mucous; others have added an intermediate cellular coat; whilst others have reckoned four;—a peritoneal coat,—a thin stratum of muscular fibres passing in different directions, and of a pale colour,—a cellular coat, in which a number of blood-vessels is situate, and an internal mucous coat. The existence of the muscular coat has been denied by perhaps the generality of anatomists; but there is reason for believing in its existence. Amussat saw muscular fibres distinctly in a gall-bladder dilated by calculi;<sup>a</sup> and Dr. Monro tertius,<sup>b</sup> Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, asserts, that he has seen it contract, in a living animal, for half an hour, under mechanical irritation, and assume the shape of an hour-glass. The mucous coat forms the rugæ to which we have already alluded. In the neck, and in the beginning of the cystic duct, there are from three to seven—sometimes twelve—semilunar duplicatures, which retard the flow of any fluids inwards or outwards. These are sometimes arranged spirally, so as to form a kind of valve, according to Amussat.<sup>c</sup>

On the inner surface of the gall-bladder, especially near its neck, numerous follicles exist; the secretion from which is said to fill the gall-bladder, when that of the bile has been interrupted by disease, as in yellow fever, scirrhus of the liver, &c. The *hepatic duct*, Fig. 251, *a*, is the common trunk of all the excretory vessels of the liver; and makes its exit from that organ by the transverse fissure. It is an inch and a half in length, and about the diameter of an ordinary writing-quill. It is joined, at a very acute angle, by the duct from the gall-bladder—the *cystic duct*, Fig. 251 *e*, to form the ductus communis choledochus. The cystic duct is about the same length as the hepatic. The *ductus communis choledochus* is about three, or three and a half, inches long. It descends behind the right extremity of the pancreas, through its substance; passes for an inch obliquely between the coats of the duodenum, diminishing in diameter; and ultimately terminates by a yet more contracted orifice, on the inner surface of the intestine, at the distance of three or four inches from the stomach. The structure of all these ducts is the same. The external coat is thick, dense, strong, and generally supposed to be of a cellular character; the inner is a mucous membrane, like that which lines the gall-bladder.<sup>d</sup>

The secretion of bile is probably effected like the other glandular secretions; but modified, of course, by the peculiar structure of the

<sup>a</sup> See, also, M. Barth, *L'Expérience*, Nov. 19, 1840.

<sup>b</sup> *Elements of the Anatomy of the Human Body*, Edinb. 1825.

<sup>c</sup> *Magendie's Précis*, &c., ii. 464.

<sup>d</sup> For a full account of the Normal Anatomy of the Liver, see W. J. E. Wilson, *Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol.*, Sept. 1840; and his *Anatomist's Vade Mecum*, Amer. edit. by Dr. Goddard, p. 520, Philad. 1843.



liver. We have seen that the organ differs from every other secretory apparatus, in having two kinds of blood distributed to it;—arterial blood by the hepatic artery; and venous blood by the vena portæ. A question has consequently arisen—from which of these is the bile formed? Anatomical inspection does not settle the question; and, accordingly, argument is all that can be adduced on one side or the other. The most common and the oldest opinion is, that the bile is separated from the blood of the vena portæ; and the chief reasons adduced in favour of this belief, are the following: *First.* The blood of the portal system is better adapted than arterial blood for the formation of bile, on account of its having, like all venous blood, more carbon and hydrogen, which are necessary for the production of a humour as fat and oily as the bile; and, as the experiments of Schultz<sup>a</sup> and others have proved, that the portal blood contains more fat than that of the other veins and arteries, it has been imagined, by some, that the blood, in crossing the omentum, becomes loaded with fat. *Secondly.* The vena portæ ramifies in the liver, after the manner of an artery, and evidently communicates with the secretory vessels of the bile. *Thirdly.* It is larger than the hepatic artery; and more in proportion to the size of the liver; the hepatic artery seeming to be merely for the nutrition of the liver, as the bronchial artery is for that of the lung.

In answer to these positions, it has been argued. *First.* That there seems to be no more reason why the bile should be formed from venous blood than the other fatty and oleaginous humours,—the marrow and fat for example,—which are derived from arterial blood. It is asked, too, whether, in point of fact, the blood of the vena portæ is more rich in carbon and hydrogen? and whether there be a closer chemical relation between the bile and the blood of the vena portæ, than between the fat and arterial blood?<sup>b</sup> The notion of the absorption of fat from the omentum, it is properly urged, is totally gratuitous. *Secondly.* The vena portæ does not exist in the invertebrated animals, and yet, in a number of them, there is an hepatic apparatus, and a secretion of bile. *Thirdly.* Admitting that the vena portæ is distributed to the liver after the manner of an artery; is it clear, it has been asked, that it is inservient to the biliary secretion? *Fourthly.* If the vena portæ be more in proportion to the size of the liver than the hepatic artery, the latter appears to bear a better ratio to the quantity of bile secreted: and, *Lastly.* It is probable, as has been shown in another place, that the liver has other functions connected with the portal system, in the admixture of heterogeneous liquids absorbed from the intestinal canal;<sup>c</sup> and, it may be, in depriving the fluid of the vena portæ of principles which pass into the bile and might be improper for assimilation, if received into the blood of the general system.

In the absence of accurate knowledge, derived from direct experi-

<sup>a</sup> Rust's Magazine, B. xliv.; or Gazette Médicale, Aug. 15, 1835. See, also, Lafargue, Bullet. Médical. du Midi, Février, 1839.

<sup>b</sup> R. Willis, Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journ. of Med. Science, Sept. 1841, p. 628.

<sup>c</sup> Adelon, art. Foie, (Physiol.) in Dict. de Méd. ix. 193, Paris, 1824; and Physiol. de l'Homme, tom. iii. 505. Paris, 1829.

ment, physiologists have usually embraced the one or the other of these exclusive views. The generality, as we have remarked, assign the function to the vena portæ. Bichat, on the other hand, ascribes it to the hepatic artery. Broussais<sup>a</sup> thinks it probable, that the blood of the vena portæ is not foreign to the formation of bile, since it is confounded with that of the hepatic artery in the parenchyma of the liver; "but to say with the older writers, that the bile cannot be formed but by venous blood, is, in our opinion," he remarks, "to advance too bold a position, since the hepatic arteries send branches to each of the glandular acini, that compose the liver." Magendie likewise concludes, that nothing militates against the idea of both kinds of blood serving in the secretion; and that it is supported by anatomy, as injections prove, that all the vessels of the liver,—arterial, venous, lymphatic, and excretory,—communicate with each other. Mr. Kiernan, as we have seen, considers that the blood of the hepatic artery, after having nourished the liver, is inservient to the secretion, but not until it has become venous, and entered the portal veins.<sup>b</sup> He,—with all those that coincide with him in the anatomical arrangement of these parts,—denies that there is any communication between the ducts and the blood-vessels; and he asserts that if injections pass between them, it is owing to the rupture of the coats of the vessels. Experiments on pigeons, by M. Simon,<sup>c</sup> of Metz, showed, that when the hepatic artery was tied, the secretion of bile continued, but that if the veins of the porta and the hepatic veins were tied, no trace of bile was subsequently found in the liver. It would thence appear, that in these animals the secretion of bile takes place from venous blood; but inferences from the ligature of those vessels have been very discordant. In two cases, in which Mr. Phillips tied the hepatic artery, the secretion of bile was uninterrupted: yet the same thing was observed in three other cases, in which the ligature was applied to the trunk of the vena portæ.

The view, that ascribes the bile to the hepatic artery, has always appeared to the author the most probable. It has all analogy in its favour. We have had no disputed origin as regards the other secretions, excepting of late in the case of the urinary secretion. They all proceed from arterial blood; and function sufficient, we think, can be assigned to the portal system, without conceiving it to be concerned in the formation of bile. We have, moreover, pathological cases, which would seem to show that bile can be formed from the blood of the hepatic artery. Mr. Abernethy<sup>d</sup> met with an instance, in which the trunk of the vena portæ terminated in the vena cava; yet bile was found in the biliary ducts. A similar case is given by Mr. Lawrence;<sup>e</sup> and the present Professor Monro<sup>f</sup> details a case communicated to him by the late Mr. Wilson, of the Windmill Street School, in which there was reason to suppose, that the greater part

<sup>a</sup> *Traité de Physiologie, &c.*, Drs. Bell and La Roche's translation, 3d edit. p. 456, Philad. 1832. See, also, Conwell's *Treatise on the Liver*, p. 54. Lond. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 662. Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, xc. 229; and Mayo's *Outlines of Human Physiology*, 3d edit. p. 130. Lond. 1833.

<sup>e</sup> *Medico-Chirurgical Transact.* iv. 174.

<sup>d</sup> *Philosoph. Transact.*, vol. lxxxiii.

<sup>f</sup> *Elements of Anatomy*. Edinb. 1825.

of the bile had been derived from the hepatic artery. The patient, a female, thirteen years old, died from the effects of an injury of the head. On dissection, Mr. Wilson found a large swelling at the root of the mesentery, consisting of several absorbent glands in a scrofulous state. Upon cutting into the mass, he accidentally observed a large vein passing directly from it into the vena cava inferior, which, on dissection, proved to be the vena portæ; and on tracing the vessels entering into it, one proved to be the inferior mesenteric vein: and another, which came directly to meet it, from behind the stomach, proved to be a branch of the splenic vein, but somewhat larger, which ran upwards by the side of the vena cava inferior, and entered that vein immediately before it passes behind the liver. Mr. Wilson then traced the branches of the trunk of the vessel corresponding to the vena portæ sufficiently far in the mesentery and mesocolon, to be convinced, that it was the only vessel that returned the blood from the small intestines, and from the cæcum and colon of the large intestines. He could trace no vein passing into the liver at the cavity of the porta; but a small vein descended from the little epiploon, and soon joined one of the larger branches of the splenic vein. The hepatic artery came off in a distinct trunk from the aorta, and ran directly to the liver. It was much larger than usual. The greater size of the hepatic artery, in this case, would favour the idea, that the arterial blood had to execute some office, that ordinarily belongs to the vena portæ. Was this the formation of bile? The case seems, too, to show, that bile can be formed from the blood of the hepatic artery.

Professor Gintrac\* has recently published a case in which there was ossification and obliteration of the vena portæ. The patient died of ascites. The liver was pale or whitish, and irregularly wrinkled or mamillated on its surface. The gall-bladder contained a medium quantity of somewhat thickish yellow bile. The biliary ducts were normal. The vena portæ above the junction of the splenic and superior mesenteric veins, was completely filled by an old clot, which adhered to the inner membrane. The clot was solid, and of a deepish black colour. At the same part of the vein several osseous plates were observed many lines in diameter, which were situate between the inner and middle coats of the vein, without having much adherence to either. All the abdominal veins which ended in these vessels were gorged with blood, and varicose. Professor Gintrac ascribed the ascites to the obliteration and ossification of the vena portæ, and he considered the case to prove, that although obliteration of that vessel probably modified the secretion of the bile, it did not prevent it altogether; but that it interfered materially with the nutrition of the liver. Hence, he inferred, that the blood of the vena portæ contributes to the nutrition of the liver; but is not indispensable to the secretion of bile.

In Professor Hall's patient, (p. 289,) the vena portæ and its bifurcation were completely filled with encephaloid matter, so that no

\* Amer. Journal of the Med. Sciences, Oct. 1844, p. 476, from Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal; cited from Journal de Méd. de Bordeaux, Janvier, 1844.

blood could pass through it to the liver; the secretion of the bile could not, consequently, be effected through its agency. It has been presumed, however, that in such cases, portal blood might still enter the liver through the extensive anastomoses, which Professor Retzius,<sup>a</sup> of Stockholm, found to exist between the abdominal veins. That gentleman observed, when he tied the vena portæ near the liver, and threw a coloured injection into the portion below the ligature, that branches were filled, some of which, proceeding from the duodenum, terminated in the vena cava; whilst others, arising from the colon, terminated in the left emulgent vein. In subsequent investigations, he observed an extensive plexus of minute veins ramifying in the cellular tissue on the outer surface of the peritoneum, part of which was connected with the vena portæ, whilst the other part terminated in the system of the vena cava. In a successful injection, these veins were seen anastomosing very freely, in the posterior part of the abdomen, with the colic veins, as well as those of the kidneys, pelvis, and even with the vena cava. The arrangement, pointed out by Retzius, accounts for the mode in which the blood of the abdominal venous system reaches the cava, when the vena portæ is obliterated from any cause; and it shows the *possibility* of portal blood reaching the liver so as to be inservient to the biliary secretion, but does not, we think, exhibit its *probability*.

It would seem, then, that the portal system is not absolutely necessary to the formation of bile, inasmuch as it has occasionally been found absent; yet a recent writer<sup>b</sup> considers it "a most puerile question" to ask whether the secretion can be effected from venous blood! "Had not," he adds, "secretion been destined to take place from the blood of the vena portarum, nature would not have been at the pains to distribute it through the liver; the peculiar arrangement is already an answer to the question; the end of it is, as I have said, to economise arterial blood." Yet, as before remarked, a sufficient function can be assigned to the portal system without supposing that it has any agency in the secretion of bile.

When bile is once secreted in the tissue of the liver, it is received into the minute excretory radicles, whence it proceeds along the ducts until it arrives, from all quarters, at the hepatic duct. A difference of sentiment exists regarding the flow of the bile from the liver and gall-bladder into the duodenum. According to some, it is constantly passing along the choledoch duct; but the quantity is not the same during digestion as at other times. In the intervals, a part only of the secreted bile attains the duodenum; the remainder ascends along the cystic duct, and is deposited in the gall-bladder. During digestion, however, not only the whole of the secretion arrives at the duodenum, but all that which had been collected in the interval is evacuated into the intestine. In support of this view it is affirmed, that bile is always met with in the duodenum; and that the gall-bladder always

<sup>a</sup> *Ars Berättelse af Setterblad*, 1835, s. 9; cited in *Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Heilkunde*, Feb. 1837, s. 251; also, *Müller's Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 185, London, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. R. Willis, *London and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Med. Science*, Sept. 1841, p. 628. See, also, Dr. Bostock, *ibid.*, May, 1842, p. 403.

contains more bile when abstinence is prolonged, whilst it is empty immediately after digestion.

The great difficulties have been, to explain how the bile gets into the gall-bladder, and how it is expelled from that reservoir. In many birds, reptiles, and fishes, the hepatic duct and the cystic duct open separately into the duodenum; whilst ducts, called *hepato-cystic*, pass directly from the liver to the gall-bladder. In man, however, the only visible route, by which it can reach that reservoir, is by the cystic duct, the direction of which is retrograde; and, consequently, the bile has to ascend against gravity. The spiral valve of Amussat has been presumed to act like the screw of Archimedes, and to facilitate the entrance of the reflux bile, but this appears to be imaginary. It is, indeed, impossible, to see any analogy between the corporeal and the hydraulic instrument. The arrangement of the termination of the choledoch duct in the duodenum has probably a more positive influence. The embouchure is the narrowest part of the duct, the ratio of its calibre to that of the hepatic duct having been estimated at not more than one to six, and to the calibre of its own duct as one to fifteen. This might render it impracticable for the bile to flow into the duodenum as promptly as it arrives at the embouchure; and, in this way collecting in the duct, it might reflow into the gall-bladder. Amussat, indeed, affirms, that this can be demonstrated on the dead body. By injecting water or mercury into the upper part of the hepatic duct, the injected liquid was found to issue both by the aperture into the duodenum, and by the upper aperture of the cystic duct into the gall-bladder.

With regard to the mode in which the gall-bladder empties itself during digestion, it is probably by a contractile action. We have seen, that it has not usually been admitted to possess a muscular coat, but that it is manifestly contractile. The chyme, as it passes into the duodenum, excites the orifice of the choledoch duct; this excitement is propagated along the ducts to the gall-bladder, which contracts; but according to Amussat, it does not evacuate its contents suddenly, for the different planes of the spiral valve are applied against each other, and only permit the flow to take place slowly. This he found was the case in the subject, when water was injected into the gall-bladder, and pressed out through the cystic duct.\* Other physiologists have presumed, that although the bile is secreted in a continuous manner, it only flows into the duodenum at the time of chylicification; at other times, the choledoch duct is contracted, so that the bile is compelled to reflow through the cystic duct into the gall-bladder; and it is only when the gall-bladder is filled that it passes freely into the duodenum. Independently, however, of other objections to this view, vivisections have shown, that if the orifice of the choledoch duct be exposed, whatever may be the circumstances in which the animal is placed, the bile is seen issuing *guttatim* at the surface of the intestine. That the flow of bile from the gall-bladder, however, is dependent upon the presence of aliment in the intestines, is shown by the fact, that the reservoir is almost always found turgid in those who have died

\* Adelon, *Physiol. de l'Homme*, iii. 494; and art. Foie, op. citat.

from starvation; the secretion formed at the ordinary slow rate having gradually accumulated for want of demand. This fact, it has been properly remarked, is important in juridical inquiries.\*

The biliary secretion, which proceeds immediately from the liver, —hence called *hepatic bile*,—differs from that obtained from the gall-bladder, which is termed *cystic bile*. The latter possesses greater bitterness, is thicker, of a deeper colour, and is that which has been usually analyzed. It is of a yellowish-green colour, viscid, and slightly bitter. It combines readily with water in all proportions, mixes freely with oil or fat; and foams, when stirred, like soapy water. It is, indeed, in common use in the same way as soap for cleansing articles of dress, and especially for taking out grease. Its chemical properties have been frequently examined; yet much is still needed, before we can consider the analysis satisfactory. Cystic bile has been generally supposed to have an alkaline reaction; but M. Bouisson and Dr. Kemp, who have recently examined it, state, that when fresh and perfectly healthy, it is neutral. The effects of bile, however, on test papers, are difficult to appreciate, on account of the yellow stain it gives them. It has been examined by Boerhaave, Verheyen, Baglivi, Hartmann, Macbride, Ramsay, Gaubius, Cadet, Fourcroy, MacIurg, Thénard, Berzelius, Chevreul, Louret and Lassaigne, Frommherz and Gugert, Schultz, Vogel, John, Treviranus, Tiedemann and Gmelin, Bouisson, Liebig, Kemp, Platner, Frerichs, &c., &c. Thénard's<sup>b</sup> analysis of 1100 parts of human bile is as follows:—water, 1000; albumen, 42; resinous matter, 41; yellow matter, (*cholepyrrhin*, *biliphæin*,) 2 to 10; free soda, 5 or 6; phosphate and sulphate of soda, chloride of calcium, phosphate of lime, and oxide of iron, 4 or 5. According to Chevallier, it contains also a quantity of picromel, now called *bilin*. Berzelius<sup>c</sup> called in question the correctness of Thénard's analysis, and gave the following:—water, 908·4; bilin, 80; albumen, 3·0; soda, 4·1; phosphate of lime, 0·1; common salt, 3·4; phosphate of soda, with some lime, 1·0. His analysis of ox-gall gave, water, 928·380; solid constituents, 71·620; bilin, 50·000; chloride of sodium, lactate of soda, and extractive matter soluble in alcohol, 4·334; cholesterin, ·001; mucus, 2·350. The results of Dr. Davy's<sup>d</sup> analysis of healthy bile were as follows:—water, 86·0; resin of bile, 12·5; albumen, 1·5. The experiments of Gmelin, for which he is highly complimented by Berzelius,<sup>e</sup> although the latter considers, that some of the products may have been formed by the reaction of elements upon each other—yielded the following results:—an odorous material, like musk; cholesterin; oleic acid; margaric acid; cholic acid; resin of bile; taurin (gallen-asparagin); bilin; colouring matter; osmazome; a substance which, when heated,

\* Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 664, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Mém. de la Société d'Arcueil, i. 38, Paris, 1807.

<sup>c</sup> Med.-chirurgical Transactions, iii. 241.

<sup>d</sup> Monro's Elements of Anatomy, i. 579.

<sup>e</sup> Henle, art. Galle, in Encyclop. Wörterb. u. s. w., s. 126, and his Allgemein. Anat. u. s. w., or French translation by Jourdan, p. 80, Paris, 1843; art. Bile, by Mr. Brande, in Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., part iv. 375, Lond. 1834; Orfila, art. Bile, in Dict. de Médecine, i. 355, Paris, 1821; and Burdach, Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, v. 260, Leipz. 1835.

had the odour of urine; a substance resembling birdlime, gleadin; albumen (?); mucus of the gall-bladder; casein, or a similar substance; ptyalin, or a similar matter; bicarbonate of soda; carbonate of ammonia; acetate of soda; oleate, margarate, cholate, and phosphate of potassa and soda; chloride of sodium and phosphate of lime. Cadet<sup>a</sup> considered bile as a soap with a base of soda, mixed with sugar of milk,—a view, which Raspail,<sup>b</sup> Demarçay,<sup>c</sup> Liebig, and others, think harmonizes most with observed facts. Every other substance met with in the bile, Raspail looks upon as accessory. Demarçay regards it as a soda salt; and that the essential constituents are an oily acid, which he terms *choleic*, and soda, which exists in a state of combination with it. Again, it has been analyzed by Muratori,<sup>d</sup> who assigns it the following constituents;—water, 882; peculiar fatty matter, 5; colouring matter, 11; cholesterin combined with soda, 4; picromel of Thénard, 94·86; osmazome (*estratto di carne*), 2·69; mucus, 37; soda, 5·14; phosphate of soda, 3·45; phosphate of lime, 8; and chloride of sodium, 1·86.

The proportion of solid matter in the bile is usually from 9 to 12 per cent., nearly the whole of which consists of cholesterin and bilin. The cholesterin is almost altogether composed of carbon and hydrogen. Bilin contains nitrogen.

The most recent analysis of human bile is given by Frerichs.\* It was obtained from healthy men killed by severe accidents. The following is one analysis:—water, 86·00; solid constituents, 14·00; bilate of soda [choleate of soda ?], 10·22; cholesterin, 0·16; margaric and olein, 0·32; mucus, 2·66; chloride of sodium, 0·25; tri-basic phosphate of soda, 0·20; basic phosphate of lime, basic phosphate of magnesia, 0·18; sulphate of lime, 0·02; peroxide of iron, traces.

The specific gravity of bile, at 6° centigrade, according to Thénard, is 1·026. Schultz found that of an ox, after feeding, at 15° to be 1·026; of a fasting animal, 1·030. The quantity secreted by a healthy man in the 24 hours has been estimated by Haller and Burdach, and the estimate is adopted by Liebig, at from 17 to 24 ounces; but this is probably higher than the reality. It is difficult, however, to attain the necessary data for a satisfactory evaluation.

Hepatic and cystic bile do not appear to differ materially from each other, except in the greater concentration of the different elements in the latter. Leuret and Lassaigne<sup>f</sup> found them to be alike

\* *Expériences sur la Bile des Hommes, &c.*, in *Mém. de l'Acad. de Paris*, 1767.

<sup>b</sup> *Chimie Organique*, p. 451, Edinb. 1833.

<sup>c</sup> *Annal. der Pharmac.* xxvii., cited by Liebig, *Animal Chemistry*, Webster's edit., p. 305, Cambridge, Mass. See, also, *Front on Stomach and Renal Diseases*, p. 510, 4th edit., London, 1843; Thomson, *Chemistry of Animal Bodies*, p. 412, Edinb. 1843; and Drs. Thayer and Schlosser, *Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie*, Oct. 1843, and May, 1844; or *Medical Times*, Feb. 3 and 10, 1844. See for recent researches on the chemistry of the bile—which is still in an uncertain state—by Berzelius and others, *Ranking's Abstract*, Jan. to June, 1845, p. 327, Amer. edit., New York, 1845.

<sup>d</sup> *Bulletino Medico di Bologna*, p. 160, Agosto et Settembre, 1836.

<sup>e</sup> *Ranking's Abstract*, Pt. ii., p. 271, Amer. edit., New York, 1846.

<sup>f</sup> *Recherches, &c.*, sur la Digestion. Paris, 1825.

in the dog. Orfila,<sup>a</sup> however, affirms, that human hepatic bile does not contain picromel.

When bile is placed in contact with concentrated nitric acid, it first of all assumes a deep green tint, which passes to blue on the addition of a fresh portion of the acid, and to red if we continue to add the acid; qualities which enable it to be detected in the urine, and in the serum of the blood,—for example, of the jaundiced.<sup>b</sup>

When bile is examined with the microscope, it is seen to contain a few, and but a few, globules of mucus, proceeding, according to Mandl,<sup>c</sup> from the muciparous glands of the gall-bladder; lamellæ of cylinder-epithelium swimming in an amorphous liquid, and small yellowish globules. At times, crystals of cholesterin are also observed in it.

The great uses of the bile have been detailed under the head of digestion. It has been conceived to be a necessary depurative excretion; separating from the blood matters that would be injurious if retained. This last idea is probable, and it has been ingeniously contended for by MM. Tiedemann and Gmelin,<sup>d</sup> who regard the function of the liver to be supplementary to that of the lungs—in other words, to remove hydro-carbon from the system. The arguments, adduced in favour of their position, are highly specious and ingenious. The resin of the bile, they say, abounds most in herbivorous animals, whose food contains a great disproportion of carbon and hydrogen. The pulmonary and biliary apparatuses are in different tribes of animals, and even in different animals of the same species, in a state of antagonism to each other. The size of the liver, and the quantity of bile are not in proportion to the quantity of food and frequency of eating, but inversely proportionate to the size and perfection of the lungs. Thus, in warm-blooded animals, which have large lungs, and live always in the air, the liver, compared with the body, is proportionally less than in those that live partly in water. The liver is proportionally still larger in reptiles, which have lungs with large cells incapable of rapidly decarbonizing the blood,—and in fishes, which decarbonize the blood tardily by the gills, and, above all, in molluscous animals, which effect the same change very slowly, either by gills, or by small imperfectly developed lungs. Again,—the quantity of venous blood, sent through the liver, increases as the pulmonary system becomes less perfect. In the mammalia, and in birds, the vena portæ is formed by the veins of the stomach, intestines, spleen, and pancreas; in the tortoise, it receives also the veins of the hind legs, pelvis, tail,—and the vena azygos: in serpents, it receives the right renal, and all the intercostal veins; in fishes the renal veins, and those of the tail and genital organs. Moreover, during the hibernation of certain of the mammalia, when respiration is suspended, and no food taken, the secretion of bile goes on. Another

<sup>a</sup> *Elém. de Chimie*. Paris, 1817.

<sup>b</sup> See the author's *Practice of Medicine*, 2d edit. i. 623, Philad. 1844; M. Donné, *Cours de Microscopie*, p. 212, Paris, 1844; and Huschke, *Splanchnologie*, *Encycl. Anatom.* traduit par Jourdan, v. 148. Paris, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Mandl, *Manuel d'Anatomie Générale*, p. 501. Paris, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> *Die Verdauung nach Versuchen, &c.*, traduit par Jourdan, Paris, 1827. See, also, La-fargue, *Bullet. Médical du Midi*, Février, 1839.



argument is deduced from the physiology of the fœtus, in which the liver is proportionally larger than in the adult, and in which the bile is secreted copiously, as appears from the great increase of the meconium during the latter months of utero-gestation. Their last argument is drawn from pathological facts. In pneumonia and phthisis, the secretion of bile, according to their observations, is increased; in diseases of the heart the liver is enlarged; and in the morbus cœruleus, the liver retains its fœtal proportion. In hot climates, too, where, in consequence of the greater rarefaction of the air, respiration is less perfectly effected than in colder, a vicarious decarbonization of the blood is established by an increased flow of bile. That the separation of the bile from the blood, however, is not an indispensable function, notwithstanding the experiments of Schwann, to be mentioned presently, is shown by Dr. Blundell,\* who gives the cases of two children that lived for four months, apparently well fed and healthy, and on opening their bodies, it was found that the biliary ducts terminated in a cul-de-sac, and that consequently not a drop of bile had been discharged into the intestines.

It is proper to remark, that azote is given off likewise in the bile,—being one of the constituents of bilin. Admitting, then, that the bile is essentially a depurative secretion, it by no means follows, that this depuration must be effected upon the blood of the hepatic artery. It is more probably exerted upon that of the portal system. The veins of the stomach and small intestines necessarily absorb much heterogeneous matter; this may—as before remarked—be separated by the liver, along with other products which might be injurious if they passed into the blood.

The views of Liebig<sup>b</sup> on this function, as well as on that of the urinary secretion, are ingenious, and, if not true, are at least plausible. Venous blood, before reaching the heart, passes through the liver; arterial blood through the kidney; and both these organs separate from the blood the substances that are incapable of serving for the nutrition of the tissues. The compounds which contain the nitrogen or azote of the transformed tissues are collected in the urinary bladder, and, not being inservient to any further use, are expelled from the body. Those, again, which contain the carbon of the transformed tissues, are collected in the gall-bladder, in the form of a compound of soda, the bile, which is miscible with water in every proportion, and which, passing into the duodenum, mixes with the chyme. All those parts of the bile, which, during the digestive process, do not lose their solubility, return, during that process, into the circulation in a state of extreme division. The soda of the bile, and the highly carbonized portions, which are not precipitated by a weak acid, retain the capability of being taken up by the absorbents of the small and large intestines,—a capability which has been directly proved by the administration of enemata containing bile—the whole of the bile having disappeared along with the fluid injected into the

\* Stokes, *Theory and Practice of Medicine*, Dunglison's American Medical Library edition, p. 104. Philad. 1837.

<sup>b</sup> *Animal Chemistry*, Webster's edit. p. 57. Cambridge, Mass., 1843.

rectum. Liebig affirms, that the constituents of the bile cannot be recognised in the *æces* of carnivorous animals; whence he infers that the whole of the bile has been reabsorbed; and, he believes, in order that its hydro-carbon may pass off by the lungs. This can scarcely, however, apply to man; and Liebig admits, that in the herbivora a certain portion of the elements of the bile can be discovered in the *æces*. Certainly, a marked difference is observable in the *æces* of a patient whose biliary ducts are obstructed. As to the precise change effected in the bile in order to fit it for being reabsorbed, Liebig leaves us wholly in the dark. His observations on this matter afford room for interesting reflection; but they can only at present be regarded in the light of suggestions.\* Recent experiments by Schwann<sup>b</sup> would seem to show, that it is not a mere excretory fluid, but that after its secretion it must be inservient to important purposes in the economy. He removed a portion of the common choledoch duct, and established an external fistulous opening into the gall-bladder, so that the bile, when secreted, might be discharged externally, and not be permitted to enter the intestine. The general result was, that of eighteen dogs operated upon, ten died of the immediate effects of the operation; and of the remaining eight, two recovered, and six died. In the latter, death appeared to Schwann to result altogether from the removal of the bile. After the third day, they daily lost weight, and had every sign of inanition—emaciation, muscular debility, uncertain gait, falling off of the hair, &c. They lived from seven to sixty-four days after the operation, and the longer they lived, the more marked were the signs of inanition. Licking the bile, as it flowed from the opening, and swallowing it, had no influence on the results. In the two dogs that recovered, the importance of the bile was equally shown; for it was found, when they were killed, that the passage of the bile into the intestine had been restored, and the period of its restoration was distinctly shown by their weight—which had previously been regularly and progressively decreasing—becoming augmented, and continuing to increase until it amounted to what it was before the operation; and likewise by the fistulous opening into the gall-bladder healing, and the discharge of bile ceasing. These experiments do not, however, lead to any exact inference as to the mode in which the bile exerts its important agency.<sup>c</sup>

If the excretion of the bile be prevented from any cause, we know that derangement of health is induced; but it is probable that its agency in the production of disease is much overrated; and that, as Broussais has suggested, the source of many of the affections termed *bilious* is in the mucous membrane lining the stomach and intestines; which, owing to the heterogeneous matters constantly brought into contact with it, must be peculiarly liable to be morbidly affected. When irritation exists there, we can easily understand how the secre-

\* See, on this subject, Dr. Budd on Diseases of the Liver, Amer. edit. p. 40. Philad. 1846.

<sup>b</sup> Müller's Archiv. Heft ii. 1844, cited in Lond. Med. Gazette, Aug. 1844; and in Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, Jan. 1845, p. 185.

<sup>c</sup> Ranking's Abstract, Pt. i. p. 333, Amer. edit. New York, 1845.

tion from the liver may be consecutively modified; the excitement spreading directly along the biliary ducts to the secretory organ.

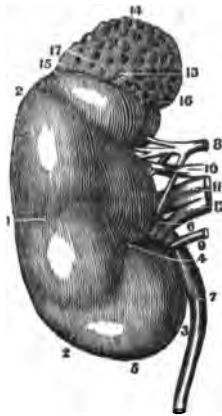
e. *Secretion of Urine.*

This is the most extensive secretion accomplished by any of the glandular structures of the body, and is essentially depurative; its suppression giving rise to formidable evils. The apparatus consists of the *kidneys*, which secrete the fluid; the *ureters*, which convey the urine to the bladder; the *bladder* itself, which serves as a reservoir for the urine; and the *urethra*, which conveys the urine externally. These will require a distinct consideration.

The *kidneys* are two glands situate in the abdomen; one on each side of the spine, (Fig. 273, 1, 1), in the posterior part of the lumbar region. They are without the cavity of the peritoneum, which covers them at the anterior part only, and are situate in the midst of a considerable mass of adipous cellular tissue. The right kidney is nearly an inch lower down than the left, owing to the presence of the thick posterior margin of the right lobe of the liver. Occasionally, there is but one kidney; at other times, three have been met with. They have the form of the *haricot* or *kidney-bean*, which has, indeed, been called after them; and are situate vertically—the fissure being turned inwards. If we compare them with the liver, their size is by no means in proportion to the extensive secretion effected by them. Their united weight does not amount to more than six or eight ounces. Of 65 male kidneys, weighed by Dr. John Reid,<sup>a</sup> the average weight was found to be 5 oz. 7 dr. for the right kidney; 5 oz. 11½ dr. for the left. Of 28 female kidneys, the right weighed 4 oz. 13 dr.; the left, 5 oz. 2 dr. The left kidney generally weighs more than the right at all ages. The kidneys of the new-born child, although absolutely much lighter than those of the adult, are yet, according to M. Huschke,<sup>b</sup> in proportion to the whole body much heavier; inasmuch as their weight is to that of the whole body of the infant, as 1 to 82–100; in the adult, as 1 to 225. They, therefore, do not grow uniformly with the rest of the body, although the secretion of urine becomes more energetic after birth.

The kidneys are hard, solid bodies, of a brown colour. The sanguiferous vessels, which convey and return the blood to them, as well as the excretory duct, communicate with them at the fissure.

Fig. 266.



Right Kidney with its Renal Capsule.

1. Anterior face of kidney.
2. External or convex edge.
3. Its internal edge. 4. Hilum renale. 5. Inferior extremity of kidney. 6. Pelvis of ureter. 7. Ureter. 8, 9. Superior and inferior branches of emulgent artery. 10, 11, 12. Three branches of the emulgent vein. 13. Anterior face of renal capsule. 14. Its superior edge. 15. Its external edge. 16. Its internal extremity. 17. Fissure on the anterior face of the capsule.

<sup>a</sup> Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Med. Sciences, April, 1843, p. 323.

<sup>b</sup> Encyclop. Anatom., traduit par Jourdan, v. 321, Paris, 1845.

The anatomical constituents of these organs are;—1. The *renal artery*, which arises from the abdominal aorta at a right angle, and,

Fig. 267.



Section of right Kidney. Supra-renal Capsule.

1. Supra-renal capsule. 2. Cortical or vascular portion. 3. Tubular portion. 4, 4. Calyces receiving the apices of cones. 5, 5. Infundibula. 6. Pelvis. 7. Ureter.

after a short course, enters the kidney, ramifying in its substance. 2. The *excretory ducts*, which arise from every part of the tissue, in which the ramifications of the renal artery terminate, and end in the *pelvis* of the kidney. (Fig. 267.) 3. The *renal veins*, which receive the superfluous blood, after the urine has been separated from it, and terminate in the *renal* or *emulgent vein*, which issues at the fissure and opens into the abdominal vena cava. 4. Of lymphatic vessels, arranged in two planes—a superficial and a deep-seated, which terminate in the lumbar glands. 5. Of *nerves*, which proceed from the semilunar ganglion, solar plexus, &c., and which surround the renal artery as with a network, following it in all its ramifications. 6. Of cellular membrane, which, as in every other organ, binds the parts together. These anatomical elements, by their union, constitute the organ as we find it.

When the kidney is divided longitudinally, it is seen to consist of

Fig. 268.



Portion of Kidney of New-born Infant.

A. Natural size. B. A small portion of A. magnified. 1. 1. Corpora Malpighiana. 2. Tubuli uriniferi.

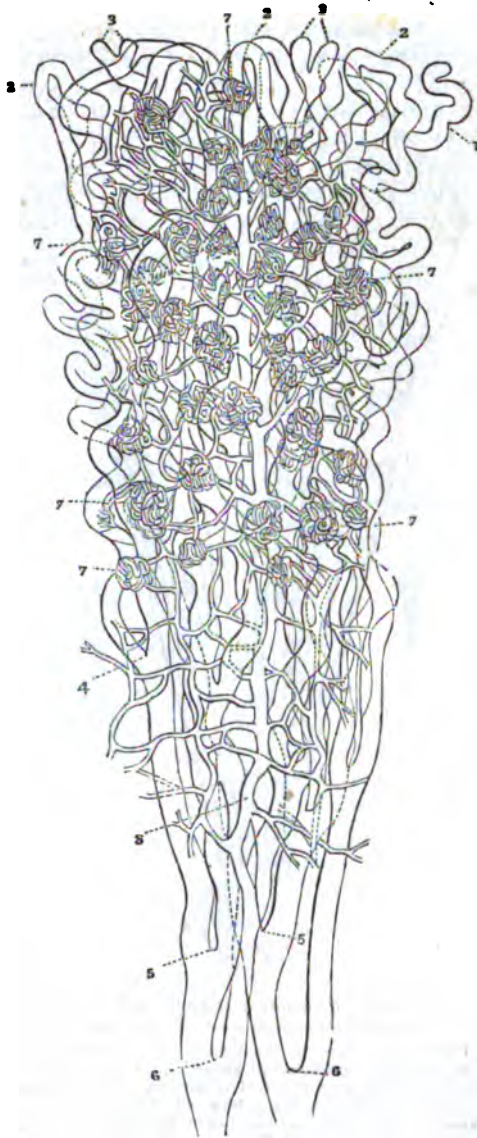
(Wagner.)

two substances, which differ in their situation, colour, consistence, and texture. The one of these, and the more external, is called the *cortical* or *glandular substance*. It forms the whole circumference of the kidney; is about two lines in thickness; of less consistence than the other; of a pale red colour; and receives almost entirely the ramifications of the renal artery. The other and innermost is the *tubular, medullary, uriniferous, conoidal, or radiated substance*. It is more dense than the other; less red; and seems to be formed of numerous minute tubes, which unite in conical bundles of unequal size, and the base of which is turned towards the cortical portion; the apices forming the *papillæ* or *mammillary processes*, and facing the pelvis of the kidney. The papillæ vary in number from five to eighteen; are of a florid colour; and upon their points or apices are the terminations of the uriniferous tubes large enough to be distinguished by the naked eye. A round the root of each papilla a membranous tube arises called *calix* or *infundibulum*: this receives the urine from the papilla, and conveys it into the *pelvis* of the kidney, which may be regarded as the commencement of the ureter.

The cortical part of the kidney is the most vas-

cular; and the plexus formed by the tubuli uriniferi appears to come there in closest relation with the plexus formed by the renal capillaries. In the illustration (Fig. 269) of the two portions as they appear in the new-born infant, A exhibits them of the natural size: 1, 1, are the *corpora Malpighiana* or Malpighian bodies, appearing as points in the cortical substance; 2, is one of the papillæ. These Malpighian bodies are scattered through the plexus formed by the blood-vessels and uriniferous tubes. Each one of these, when examined by a high magnifying power, is found to consist of a convoluted mass of minute blood-vessels. In these—it was at one time supposed—the uriniferous tubes originate; but the examinations of Müller and Huschke have seemed to show, that they are only capable of injection from the arteries or veins. They are found in the kidneys of most, if not all, of the vertebrata.\* In the cortical substance, according to Wagner,<sup>b</sup> the tubuli can be traced, although with difficulty,

Fig. 269.



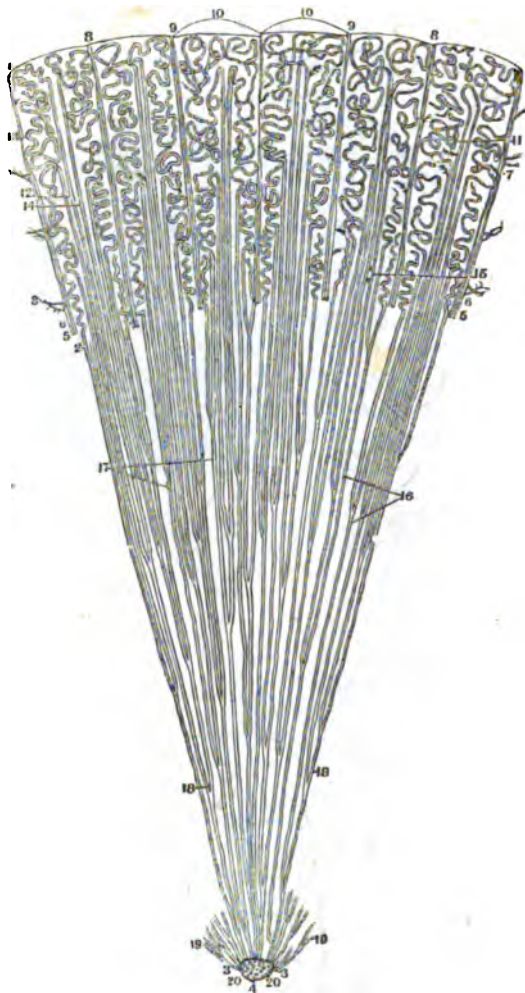
Small Portion of Kidney magnified 60 Diameters.

1. Cæcal extremity of a tubulus. 2, 2. Loops of tubuli. 3, 3. Bifurcated tubuli. 4, 5, 6. Tubuli converging towards the papillæ. 7, 7, 7. Corpora Malpighiana. 8. Arterial trunk.

\* J. Müller, Baly's edit. or Bell's Amer. abridgment, p. 435, Philad. 1843; Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 667, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Elements of Physiology, by R. Willis, § 193, Lond. 1842.

Fig. 270.



*Section of one of the Pyramids of Malpighi, and of its corresponding Cortical Substance, as seen under the Microscope.*

1. Portion of surface of the kidney. 2. From this figure up to 1, is the cortical substance of kidney. 3. From 2 to this number is the tubular portion. 4. The foveola. 5, 6. Arteries and veins ramifying through the kidney. 7. Arteries to the acini of the kidney. 8. Capillary extremities of veins anastomosing with corresponding arterioles. 9. Tortuous extremities of the arteries directed into the interior of the gland. 10. Bases of the cones of the cortical and pyramidal substance of the kidney. From 10 to 4 is a collection of these cones. 11. Envelope of the cortical layer. 12. Prolongations of tubular portion. 13. Tortuous tubes, or those of Ferrein. 14. Straight tubes, or those of Bellini. 15. Vessels which wind between them. 16. Course of uriniferous tubes in the tubular portion. 17. The matter between these tubes. 18. Bifurcation of straight tubes. 19. Sections of these tubes. 20. Their orifices.

winding among the vascular plexuses, or skeins, mostly looped towards the margin of the organ, and running into one another, or having blind or cæcal extremities; more rarely enlarged and club-shaped as in Fig. 23. and occasionally cleft (Fig. 269). The entire cortical substance, according to Wagner, consists of convolutions of the uriniferous tubes; which present a nearly uniform diameter, and, on an average, may be from about the 60th to the 50th of a line. Mr. Goodsir,\* however, without denying the existence of occasional blind extremities of the tubuli uriniferi. the result probably, he thinks, of arrested development, states that he has never seen the ducts terminate in this way. He has described a fibro-cellular framework, which, pervading every part of the gland, and particularly its cortical portion, performs the same office in the kidney, which the capsule of Glisson does in the liver, —being a basis of support to the delicate structure of the

\* Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journ. of Med. Science, May, 1842.

gland, conducting the blood-vessels through the organ, and constituting small chambers in the cortical portion, in each of which a single ultimate coil or loop of the uriniferous ducts is lodged. Mr. Goodsir believes, that the urine is formed at first within the epithelium cells of the ducts, and that these burst, dissolve, and throw out their contents, and are succeeded by others, which perform the same functions. The urine of man has not been detected by Mr. Goodsir within the cells, which line the ducts, but he has submitted to the Royal Society of Edinburgh a memoir, already referred to, in which he has endeavoured to show, that the urine, bile, and milk, as well as the other more important secretions in the lower animals, are formed within the nucleated cells of the ducts themselves; and he is of opinion, that the urine of man is poured at first into the cavities of the nucleated cells of the human kidney. More recently, Mr. Bowman\* has affirmed, that the kidney is furnished with a true *portal system*, and that the urine, like the bile, is secreted—in part at least—from blood, which is traversing at the time a second set of capillaries. According to him, each of the exceedingly tortuous and convoluted urinary conduits terminates, at its final extremity, by a contracted neck, which leads into a little

chamber or cyst, in which is contained the true glandule of Malpighi, which consists of a tuft or coil of capillary blood-vessels, totally naked, that originates in one of the ultimate branches of the renal artery, and terminates in an efferent vessel. Several of these latter form, by their anastomosing ramifications, the plexus that surrounds each urinary conduit and tubule; the urinary conduits being lined by thick epithelium, and their necks furnished with vibratile cilia. All the blood of the renal artery, according to him,—with the exception

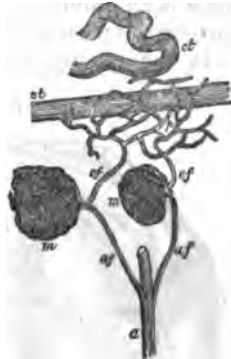
Fig. 271.



*Uriniferous Tube, Malpighian Tuft and Capsule, from Kidney of Frog.*

*a.* Cavity of the tube. *b.* Epithelium of the tube. *b'* Ciliated epithelium of the neck of the capsule. *b''* Detached epithelium scale. *c.* Basement membrane of tube. *c'* Basement membrane of capsule. Magnified about 320 diameters.—(*Bowman.*)

Fig. 272.



*Distribution of the Renal vessels, from Kidney of Horse.*

*a.* Branch of renal artery. *af.* Afferent vessel. *m, m.* Malpighian tufts. *ef, ef.* Efferent vessels. *p.* Vascular plexus surrounding the tubes. *st.* Straight tube. *ct.* Convoluted tube. Magnified about 30 diameters.—(*Bowman.*)

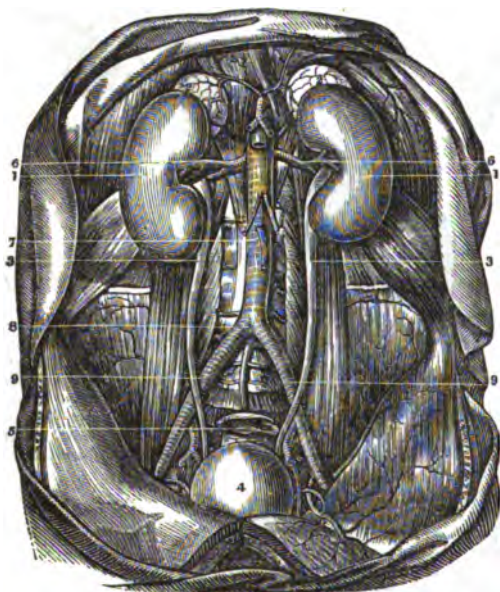
\* Proceedings of the Royal Society, No. lii. Feb. 3, 1842; and Philos. Transactions, Pt. 1, p. 57, Lond. 1842.



of a small quantity distributed to the capsule, surrounding fat, and the coats of the larger vessels—enters the capillary tufts of the corpora Malpighiana; thence it passes into the capillary plexus surrounding the uriniferous tubes, and finally leaves the organ through the branches of the renal vein. Thus, there are in the kidney two perfectly distinct systems of capillary vessels; the *first*, that inserted into the dilated extremities of the uriniferous tubes, and in immediate connexion with the arteries—the Malpighian bodies:—the *second*, that enveloping the convolutions of the tubes, and communicating directly with the veins. The efferent vessels of the Malpighian bodies, that carry the blood between these two systems, are termed by Mr. Bowman the *portal system of the kidney*. The views of Mr. Bowman have been embraced by some histologists;<sup>a</sup> but they stand in need of further observation.<sup>b</sup>

In the quadruped, each kidney is made up of numerous lobes,

Fig. 273.



Urinary Organs in situ.

- 1, 1. Kidneys. 2, 2. Capsulae renales. 3, 3. Ureters in their course to the bladder, and their relations to the blood-vessels.
4. Bladder distended with urine. 5. Rectum. 6. Emulgent arteries. 7. Abdominal aorta. 8. Its division into the iliacs.
9. Primitive iliacs at the point where the ureters cross them.

which are more or less intimately united according to the species. In birds, the kidney consists of a double row of distinct, but connected, glandular bodies, placed on both sides the lumbar vertebræ.

The *ureter* is a membranous duct, which extends from the kidney to the bladder. It is about the size of a goose-quill; descends through the lumbar region; dips into the pelvis by crossing in front of the primitive iliac vessels and the internal iliac; crosses the vas deferens at the back of the bladder, and, penetrating that viscus obliquely, terminates by an orifice, ten or twelve lines behind that of the neck of the bladder. At first, it penetrates two of the

coats only of that viscus; running for the space of an inch between the mucous and muscular coats, and then entering the cavity. The

<sup>a</sup> Aldridge, Dublin Journal of Med. Science, cited in Amer. Journ. of the Medical Sciences, Oct. 1843, p. 445.

<sup>b</sup> See Reichert, Huschke, and Gerlach, the last of whom confirms the views of Mr. Bowman, in Ranking's Abstract, Pt. ii. p. 239, Amer. edit., New York, 1846.



ureters have two coats. The outermost is a dense fibrous membrane; the innermost a thin mucous layer, continuous at its lower extremity with the inner coat of the bladder; and at the upper end supposed, by some, to be reflected over the papillæ, and even to pass for some distance into the tubuli uriniferi.

The *bladder* is a musculo-membranous sac, situate in the pelvis; anterior to the rectum, and behind the pubes. Its superior end is called the *upper fundus*; and the lower end, the *inferior fundus* or *bas-fond*; the *body* being situate between the two. The part where it joins the urethra is the *neck*. The shape and situation of the organ are influenced by age and by sex. In very young infants, it is cylindrical, and rises up almost wholly into the abdomen. In the adult female, who has borne many children, it is nearly spheroidal; has its greatest diameter transverse, and is more capacious than in the male. Like the other hollow viscera, the bladder consists of several coats. 1. The *peritoneal* coat, which covers only the fundus and back part. Towards the lower portion the organ is invested by cellular membrane, which takes the place of the peritoneal coat of the fundus. This tissue is very loose, and permits the distension and contraction of the bladder. 2. The *muscular coat* is very strong; so much so, that it has been classed amongst the distinct muscles, under the name *detrusor urinæ*. The fibres are pale, and pass in various directions. Towards the lower part of the bladder, they are particularly strong; arranged in fasciculi, and form a kind of network of muscles enclosing the bladder. In cases of stricture of the urethra, where much effort is necessary to expel the urine, these fasciculi acquire considerable thickness and strength. 3. The *mucous* or *villous coat* is the lining membrane, which is continuous with that of the ureters and urethra, and is generally rugous, in consequence of its being more extensive than the muscular coat without. It is furnished with numerous follicles, which secrete a fluid to lubricate it. Towards the neck of the organ, it is thin and white, though reddish in the rest of its extent. A fourth coat, called the *cellular*, has been reckoned by most anatomists, but it is nothing more than cellular tissue uniting the mucous and muscular coats. The part of the internal surface of the bladder, situate immediately behind and below its neck, and occupying the space between it and the orifices of the ureters, is called the *vesicle triangle*, *trigonus Lieutaudi* or *trigone vesical*. The anterior angle of the triangle looks into the orifice of the urethra, and is generally so prominent, that it has obtained the name *uvula vesicæ*. It is merely a projection of the mucous membrane, dependent upon the subjacent third lobe of the prostate gland, which, in old people, is frequently enlarged, and occasions difficulty in passing the catheter. The neck of the bladder penetrates the prostate gland; but, at its commencement, it is surrounded by loose cellular tissue, containing a very large and abundant plexus of veins. The internal layer of muscular fibres is here transverse; and they cross and intermix with each other, in different directions, forming a close, compact tissue, which has the effect of a particular apparatus for retaining the urine, and has been called the *sphincter*. Anatomists have not usually esteemed this

structure to be distinct from the muscular coat at large; but Sir Charles Bell<sup>a</sup> asserts, that if we begin the dissection by taking off the inner membrane of the bladder from around the orifice of the urethra, a set of fibres will be discovered, on the lower half of the orifice, which, being carefully dissected, will be found to run in a semicircular form around the urethra. These fibres make a band of about half an inch in breadth, particularly strong on the lower part of the opening; and having ascended a little above the orifice, on each side, they dispose of a portion of their fibres in the substance of the bladder. A smaller and somewhat weaker set of fibres will be seen to complete their course, surrounding the orifice on the upper part. The arteries of the bladder proceed from various sources, but chiefly from the umbilical and common pudic. The veins return the blood into the internal iliacs. They form a plexus of considerable size upon each side of the bladder, particularly about its neck. The lymphatics accompany the principal veins of the bladder, and, at the under part and sides, pass into the iliac glands. The nerves are from the great sympathetic and sacral.

The *urethra* is the excretory duct of the bladder. It extends, in the male, from the neck of the bladder to the extremity of the gland; and is from seven to ten inches in length. In the female it is much shorter. The male urethra has several curvatures in the state of flaccidity of the penis; but is straight, or nearly so, if the penis be drawn forwards and upwards, and if the rectum be empty. The first portion of this canal, which traverses the prostate gland, is called the *prostatic portion*. Into it open,—on each side of a caruncle, called the *verumontanum*, *caput gallinaginis*, or *crista urethralis*,—the two ejaculatory ducts, those of the prostate, and a little lower, the orifice of Cowper's glands. Between the prostate and the bulb is the *membranous part* of the urethra, which is eight or ten lines long. The remainder of the canal is called the *corpus spongiosum* or *spongy portion*, because surrounded by an erectile spongy tissue. It is situated beneath the corpora cavernosa, and passes forward to terminate in the *glans*; the structure of which will be considered under Generation. At the commencement of this portion of the urethra is the *bulb* of the urethra, the structure of which resembles that of the corpora cavernosa of the penis—to be described hereafter. The dimensions of the canal are various. At the neck of the bladder it is considerable: behind the *caput gallinaginis* it contracts, and immediately enlarges in the forepart of the prostate. The membranous portion is narrower; and in the bulb the channel enlarges. In the body of the penis, it diminishes successively, till it nearly attains the *glans*, when it is so much increased in size as to have acquired the name *fossa navicularis*. At the apex of the *glans* it terminates by a short vertical slit. Mr. Shaw<sup>b</sup> has described a set of vessels, imme-

<sup>a</sup> *Anatomy and Physiol.* 5th Amer. edit. by Dr. Godman, ii. 375, New York, 1829. See, also, on this subject, Dr. Horner, *Special Anatomy and Histology*, vol. ii. 6th edit., Philad. 1843; and Dr. Goddard, in *Wilson's Anatomist's Vade Mecum*, Amer. edit., p. 531, Philad. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Manual of Anatomy*, ii. 118, Lond. 1822.

diately on the outside of the internal membrane of the urethra, which, when empty, are very similar in appearance to muscular fibres. These vessels, he remarks, form an internal spongy body, which passes down to the membranous part of the urethra, and forms even a small bulb there. Dr. Horner,<sup>a</sup> however, says, that this appeared to him to be rather the cellular membrane connecting the canal of the urethra with the corpus spongiosum. The whole of the urethra is lined by a very vascular and sensible mucous membrane, which is continued from the inner coat of the bladder. It has, apparently, a certain degree of contractility, and therefore, by some anatomists, is conceived to possess muscular fibres. Sir Everard Home, from the results of his microscopical observations, is disposed to be of this opinion. This is, however, so contrary to analogy, that it is probable the fibres may be seated in the tissue surrounding it. The membrane contains numerous follicles, and several lacunæ, one or two of which, near the extremity of the penis, are so large as occasionally to obstruct the catheter, and to convey the impression that a stricture exists.

The prostate and the glands of Cowper, being more concerned in generation, will be described hereafter.

There are certain muscles of the perineum, that are engaged in the expulsion of the urine from the urethra; and some of them in defecation, and in the evacuation of the sperm likewise; as the *acceleratores urinæ* or *bulbo-urethrales*, which propel the urine or semen forward;<sup>b</sup> the *transversus perinei* or *ischio-perinealis*, which dilates the bulb for the reception of the urine or semen; the *sphincter ani*, which draws down the bulb, and thus aids in the ejection of the urine or sperm; and the *levator ani*, which surrounds the extremity of the rectum, the neck of the bladder, the membranous portion of the urethra, the prostate gland, and a part of the vesiculæ seminales, and assists in the evacuation of the bladder, vesiculæ seminales, and prostate. A part of the levator, which arises from the pubis and assists in enclosing the prostate gland, is called by Sömmerring *compressor prostatae*. Between the membranous part of the urethra, and that portion of the levator ani which arises from the inner side of the symphysis pubis, a reddish, cellular, and very vascular substance exists, which closely surrounds the canal, has been described by Mr. Wilson<sup>c</sup> under the name *compressor urethrae*, and is termed, by some of the French anatomists, *muscle de Wilson*. By many, however, it is considered to be a part of the levator ani. Amussat asserts, that the membranous part of the urethra is formed externally of muscular fibres, which are susceptible of energetic contraction; and Magendie<sup>d</sup> confirms his assertion.

With regard to the *urinary organs* of the *female*:—the kidneys and ureters have the same situation and structure as those of the

<sup>a</sup> Lessons in Practical Anatomy, 3d edit., p. 272, Philad. 1836; and Amer. Journ. of the Medical Sciences, p. 538, for Feb. 1832.

<sup>b</sup> For Dr. Horner's views on the origin of the *acceleratores urinæ*, see his Special Anatomy and Histology, 6th edit., vol. ii., Philad. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Lectures on the Structure and Physiology of the Urinary and Genital Organs, Lond. 1831.

<sup>d</sup> Précis, &c., ii. 472.

male. The bladder, also, holds the same place behind the pubis, but rises higher when distended. It is proportionally larger than that of the male, and is broader from side to side, thus allowing the greater retention to which females are often necessitated. The urethra is much shorter, being only about an inch and a half or two inches long, and it is straighter than in the male, having only a slight curve downwards between its extremities, and passing almost horizontally under the symphysis of the pubis. It has no prostate gland, but is furnished, as in the male, with follicles and lacunæ, which provide a mucus to lubricate it.

In birds in general, and in many reptiles and fishes, the urine, prior to expulsion, is mixed with the excrement in the cloaca. Nothing analogous to the urinary organs has been detected in the lowest classes of animals, although in the dung of the caterpillars of certain insects, traces of urea have been met with.

The urine is separated from the blood in the kidneys; and it has until recently been the universal belief, that it is secreted from arterial blood; Mr. Bowman, however, in accordance with his views on the minute anatomy of the kidney, already given, (p. 311,) has attempted to show, that it is separated from venous blood. His main conclusions are as follows:—*First*. The epithelium, lining the tubes, is the proper organ that secretes the characteristic products of the urine from the blood; and it does this by first assimilating them into its own substance, and afterwards pouring them upon its free surface. *Secondly*. These proper urinous products require for their solution a large quantity of water. *Thirdly*. This water is furnished by the Malpighian tufts of capillaries, placed at the extremity of the uriniferous tubes; and *Fourthly*. A farther use of the Malpighian bodies seems to be that of sharing in regulating the amount of water in the body. He thus makes a striking analogy between the liver and kidneys both in structure and function; and expresses his belief, *first*, that diuretic medicines act specially on the Malpighian bodies, and that many substances, particularly salts, which, when taken into the system, have a tendency to pass off by the kidneys with rapidity, in reality escape through the Malpighian bodies; *secondly*, that certain morbid products occasionally found in the urine, such as sugar, albumen, and the red particles of the blood, also, in all probability, pass off through this bare system of capillaries.

According to Raspail,\* the urine is a kind of *caput mortuum*, ejected into the urinary bladder by those glands. They separate carbon and nitrogen from the kidneys, in the form of cyanogen, which unites with oxygen to produce cyanic acid; and this combines with ammonia—itself a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen—to form urea, which is the characteristic element of the urinary secretion; and they separate and excrete superfluous fluid from the body.<sup>b</sup> The proofs of this separation are easy and satisfactory; but with regard to the mode in which the operation is effected, we are in the same darkness that hangs over the glandular secretions in general.

\* *Chimie Organique*, p. 505, Paris, 1833.

<sup>b</sup> Carpenter, *Haman Physiology*, § 668, Lond. 1842.

The transformation must, however, occur in the cortical part of the organ; for the tubular portion seems to consist only of a collection of excretory ducts; and, if we cut into it, urine oozes out.

The urinary secretion takes place continuously. If a catheter be left in the bladder, the urine drops constantly; and in cases of *ex-strophia* of that organ—a faulty conformation, in which it opens above the pubes, so that a red mucous surface, formed by the inner coat of the bladder, is seen in the hypogastric region, in which two prominences are visible, corresponding to the openings of the ureters—the urine is seen to be constantly passing out at these openings.\* After the secretion has been effected in the cortical substance, it flows through the tubular portion, and issues *guttatim* through the apices of the papillæ into the pelvis of the kidney, whence it proceeds along the ureter to the bladder. When the uriniferous cones are slightly compressed, the urine issues in greater quantity, but, instead of being limpid, as when it flows naturally, it is thick and troubled. Hence a conclusion has been drawn, that it is really filtered through the hollow fibres of the medullary or tubular portion. If this were the case, what must become of the separated thick portion? Ought not the tubes to become clogged up with it? And is it not more probable, that compression, in this case, forces out with the urine some of the blood that is concerned in the nutrition of the organ? The fresh secretion constantly taking place in the kidney causes the urine to flow along the tubuli uriniferi to the pelvis of the organ, whence it proceeds along the ureter, if we are in the erect attitude, by virtue of its gravity: the fresh fluid, too, continually secreted from the kidney, pushes on that which is before it; and, moreover, there is not improbably some degree of contractile action exerted by the ureters themselves; although, as in the case of the excretory ducts in general, such a power has been denied them. These are the chief causes of the progression of the urine into the bladder, which is aided by the pressure of the abdominal contents and muscles, and, it is supposed, by the pulsation of the renal and iliac arteries; but the agency of these must be trivial.

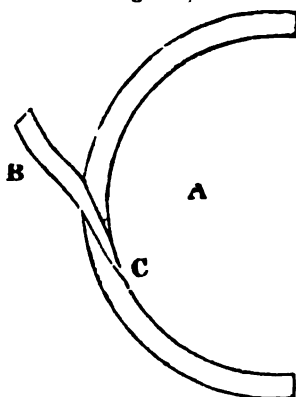
The orifices of the ureters form the posterior angles of the *trigone vesical*, and are contracted somewhat below the size of the ducts themselves. They are said, by Sir Charles Bell,<sup>b</sup> to be furnished with a small fasciculus of muscular fibres, which runs backwards from the orifice of the urethra, immediately behind the lateral margins of the triangle, and, when it contracts, stretches the orifice of the ureter so as to permit the urine to enter the bladder with facility. As the urine enters, it gradually distends the organ until the quantity has attained a certain amount. It cannot reflow by the ureters, on account of the smallness of their orifices and their obliquity; and as the bladder becomes filled,—owing to the duct passing for some distance between the muscular and mucous coats,—the sides are pressed

\* See note of a case of this kind, by the author, in *Amer. Med. Intelligencer*, i. 137; and another, by Dr. Pancoast, *ibid.*, p. 147, Philad. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> *Anatomy and Physiology*, 5th American edition, by Godman, ii. 331. New York, 1827.

against each other, so that the cavity is obliterated. (Fig. 274.) As, however, the ureters have a tendency to lose this obliquity of insertion, in proportion as the bladder is emptied, the two bands of muscular fibres which run from the back of the prostate gland to the orifices of the ureters,

Fig. 274.



Entrance of the Ureter into the Bladder.

A. Cavity of the bladder. B. Ureter.  
C. Vesical orifice of the ureter.

not only assist in emptying the bladder, but, at the same time, pull down the orifices of the ureters, and thus tend to preserve the obliquity.\* Moreover, when we are in the erect attitude, the urine would have to enter the ureters against gravity. These obstacles are so effective, that if an injection be thrown forcibly and copiously through the urethra into the bladder, it does not enter the ureters. On the other hand, equally powerful impediments exist to its being discharged through the urethra. The inferior fundus of the bladder is situate lower than the neck; and the sphincter presents a degree of resistance, which requires the bladder to contract forcibly on its contents, aided by the abdominal muscles, to overcome it. Ma-

gendie<sup>b</sup> considers the contraction of the levatores ani to be the most efficient cause of the retention of the urine; the fibres which pass around the urethra pressing its sides against each other, and thus closing it.

In a case of exstrophy of the bladder in a lad thirteen years of age, Mr. Erichsen had an opportunity of witnessing several interesting phenomena connected with the excretion of urine. The orifice of each ureter in the bladder appeared, when closed, as a small irregularly oval depression, about a line in diameter, situate on a conical papilla of the mucous membrane. A probe might be passed up the ureters for several inches without any sensible inconvenience being produced. In regard to the phenomena attending the passage of the urine from the ureters into the bladder, it appeared, that in the first place a drop collected within the papillary termination of the ureter, which became somewhat distended; the orifice of the canal then opened to an extent of from two to three lines in diameter, and, as soon as it had allowed the drop of urine to pass, it contracted with a sphincter-like action. The distension of the lower end of the ureter, before the drop of urine escaped, was very distinct, and the relaxation of the orifice of the canal had the appearance of being occasioned by the accumulation of the drop of fluid that collected above it. The closure of the vesical termination of the ureter, after the escape of the drop of urine, was accompanied by a slight retraction of the papillary bulging of the mucous membrane on which it terminated, and the whole process resembled an ordinary sphincter action. The two

\* Sir C. Bell, op. cit., and *Medico-chirurgical Transactions*, vol. iii.

<sup>b</sup> Précis, &c., edit. cit., ii. 473.

ureters did not open at the same time, but with an irregularly alternating action. During the periods of fasting, the ureters opened on an average about three times in a minute; consequently the quantity of urine discharged from both might be estimated at about three large drops in the same space of time; but although this might be taken as the average rate of discharge, the action of the ureters was by no means regular, inasmuch as two or three drops would sometimes flow in rapid succession, whilst at other times a comparatively long interval would elapse between the escape of any two drops. When the patient lay upon his back, the discharge was slow and gentle, being unattended with the distinct opening and shutting of the end of the tube, noticed when in the upright position. During a deep inspiration, as in yawning or coughing, or whilst straining at stool, the flow of urine was suddenly increased, and the fluid then escaped in a small stream, or in several large drops, in rapid succession. The urine itself was invariably acid, and often highly so, whilst the mucous membrane of the bladder possessed a highly alkaline reaction. It was covered by a viscid glairy mucus, and was extremely sensitive to the touch.

The urine accumulates in the bladder until the desire arises to expel it: the number of times that a person in health and in the middle period of life, discharges it in the twenty-four hours, varies; whilst some evacuate the bladder but twice, others may be compelled to do so as many as twelve or fourteen times. Nine times, according to Dr. Thomas Thomson,\* is a common number. The quantity, too, discharged at a time varies. The greatest quantity observed by Dr. Thomson was  $25\frac{1}{2}$  cubic inches, or somewhat less than a pint, the most common quantity being from seven to nine cubic inches. During the stay of the urine in the bladder, it is believed to be deprived of some of its more aqueous portions by absorption, and to become of greater specific gravity, and more coloured: it is here that those depositions are apt to take place which constitute *calculi*; although we meet with them in the kidneys and ureters also. As in every excretion, a sensation first arises, in consequence of which the muscles required for the ejection of the secreted matter are called into action. This sensation occurs whenever the urine has accumulated to the necessary extent, or when it possesses irritating qualities, owing to extraneous substances being contained in, or deposited from it; or if the bladder be unusually irritable from any morbid cause, the sensation may be repeatedly—nay, almost incessantly—experienced. The remarks, that have been made on the sensations accompanying the other excretions, are equally applicable here. The impression takes place in the bladder; such impression is conveyed to the brain, which accomplishes the sensation; and, consecutively, the muscles, concerned in the excretion, are called into action by volition. Physiologists have differed regarding the power of volition over the bladder. Some have affirmed that it is as much under cerebral control as the muscles of locomotion; and they have urged, in support of this view, that the bladder receives spinal nerves, which are voluntary; that it

\* British Annals of Medicine, p. 6, Jan. 1837.

is paralysed in affections of the spinal marrow, like the muscles of the limbs; and that a sensation, which seems destined to arouse the will, is always the precursor of its action. Others again have denied, that the muscular fibres of the bladder are contractile under the will; and they adduce the case of other reservoirs,—the stomach and the rectum, for example,—whose influence in excretion we have seen to be involuntary; as well as the fact that we no more feel the contraction of the bladder than we do that of the stomach or intestines; and they affirm, that the action of the bladder itself has been confounded with that of the accessory muscles, which are manifestly under the influence of the will, and are important agents in the expulsion of the fluid from the bladder. The views, last expressed, appear to be most accurate, and the catenation of phenomena seems to be as follows:—the sensation to expel the urine arises; the abdominal muscles are thrown into contraction by volition; the viscera are thus pressed down upon the pelvis; the muscular coat of the bladder is, at the same time, stimulated by reflex action to contraction; the levatores ani and the sphincter fibres are relaxed, so that the resistance of the neck of the organ is diminished, and the urine is forced out through the whole extent of the urethra, being aided in its course, especially towards the termination, by the contractile action of the urethra itself, as well as by the levatores ani and acceleratores urinæ muscles. These expel the last drops by giving a slight succussion to the organ, and directing it upwards and forwards; an effect which is aided by shaking the organ to free it from the drops that may exist in the part of the canal near its extremity. The gradually diminishing jet, which we notice, as the bladder is becoming empty, indicates the contraction of the muscular coat of the organ; whilst the kind of intermittent jet, coincident with voluntary muscular exertion, indicates the contraction of the urethral muscles. When we feel the inclination to evacuate the bladder, and do not wish to obey it, the same muscles,—the levatores ani, the acceleratores urinæ, and the fibres around the membranous portion of the urethra and the neck of the bladder,—are thrown into contraction, and resist that of the bladder.

Such is the ordinary mechanism of the excretion of urine. The contraction of the bladder is, however, of itself sufficient to expel its contents. Magendie<sup>a</sup> affirms, that he has frequently seen dogs pass urine when the abdomen was opened, and the bladder removed from the influence of the abdominal muscles; and he farther states, that if, in a male dog, the bladder, with the prostate and a small portion of the membranous part of the urethra, be removed from the body, the bladder will contract after a few moments, and project the urine, with an evident jet, until it is entirely expelled.

Urine—voided in the morning, *urina sanguinis*, by a person who has eaten heartily, and taken no more fluid than sufficient to allay thirst—is a transparent, limpid fluid, of an amber colour, saline taste, and a peculiar odour. Its specific gravity is estimated by Chossat<sup>a</sup> at from 1·001 to 1·038; by Cruikshank, and Wagner,<sup>b</sup> from 1·005 to 1·039; by Prout, from 1·015 to 1·025; by Gregory, from 1·005 to

<sup>a</sup> Précis, ii. 474.

<sup>b</sup> Elements of Physiology, by R. Willis, § 200, Lond. 1842.



1·033 ;<sup>a</sup> by Christison,<sup>b</sup> on the average, 1·024 or 1·025 ; by F. D'Arcet, from 1·001 to 1·060 [?],<sup>c</sup> by Rayer,<sup>d</sup> and Donn  ,<sup>e</sup> on the average, 1·018 ; by Dr. Bostock and Martin Solon,<sup>f</sup> 1·020 ; by Elliotson,<sup>g</sup> from 1·015 to 1·025 ; and Dr. Thomson<sup>h</sup> found it in an individual, from 50 to 60 years of age and in perfect health, to be, on the average, 1·013 ; the lowest specific gravity, during ten days, being 1·004 ; and the highest, 1·026. Dr. Thomson has published some tables<sup>i</sup> showing the quantity of urine passed at different times during ten days by the individual in question, and the specific gravity of each portion. These tables do not accord with the opinion generally entertained, that the heaviest urine is voided on rising in the morning. No generalization can, indeed, be made on this subject. The temperature of the urine, when recently voided, varied in one case from 92° to 95°. It is slightly acid, for it reddens vegetable blues. Although at first quite transparent, it deposits an insoluble matter on standing ; so that urine, passed at bed-time, is found to have a light cloud—*encorema*—floating in it by the following morning. This substance consists, in part, of mucus from the urinary passages ; and, in part, of the superlithate of ammonia, which is much more soluble in warm than in cold water.

Three distinct varieties of the urinary secretion may, according to Dr. Golding Bird,<sup>j</sup> be recognised. *First*. That passed some little time after drinking freely of fluids, generally pale, and of low specific gravity—1·003 to 1·009—*urina pot  s*. *Secondly*. That secreted after the digestion of a full meal, varying much in physical characters, and of considerable density—1·020 to 1·028, or even 1·030—*urina chyl   vel cibi*. *Thirdly*. That secreted from the blood independently of the immediate stimulus of food and drink, as that passed after a night's rest, *urina sanguinis*, which is usually of average density—1·015 to 1·025—and presents in perfection the essential characters of urine.

The following table, drawn up, as far as 1832, by M. Becquerel, and completed from the observations of Dr. Golding Bird,<sup>k</sup> exhibits, at a single inspection, the amount of solids and water present in 1000 grains of urine of any particular density ; and from the quantity of urine passed in twenty-four hours it is easy to calculate how much solid matter the patient is parting with in that period.

<sup>a</sup> Burdach, *Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, v. 271, Leipz., 1835.

<sup>b</sup> On Granular Degeneration of the Kidneys, p. 34, Edinb., 1839 ; or Dunglison's *Amer. Med. Library* edit., Philad., 1839.

<sup>c</sup> L'Experience, No. lv., Aug., 1838.

<sup>d</sup> *Traite des Maladies des Reins, &c.*, tom. i., Paris, 1839.

<sup>e</sup> *Cours de Microscopie*, p. 226, Paris, 1844.

<sup>f</sup> *De l'Albuminurie, ou Hydropsie Causee par Maladie des Reins*, Paris, 1838.

<sup>g</sup> *Human Physiology*, p. 293, Lond., 1835.

<sup>h</sup> *British Annals of Medicine*, p. 5, Jan., 1837.

<sup>i</sup> *Urinary Deposits*, Amer. edit., p. 27, Philad., 1845.

<sup>k</sup> *Lond. Med. Gazette*, Feb. 10, 1843, p. 678.

<sup>l</sup> Op. citat., p. 6.

Density.	Water in 1000 grains.	Solids in 1000 grains.	Density.	Water in 1000 grains.	Solids in 1000 grains.
1001	998.35	1.65	1029	960.4	39.6
1002	996.7	3.3	1026	957.1	42.9
1004	993.4	6.6	1028	953.8	46.2
1006	990.1	9.9	1030	950.5	49.5
1008	986.8	13.2	1032	947.2	52.8
1010	983.5	16.5	1034	943.9	56.1
1012	980.2	19.8	1036	940.6	59.4
1014	976.9	23.1	1038	937.3	62.7
1016	973.6	26.4	1040	934.	66.
1018	970.3	29.7	1042	930.7	69.3
1020	967.	33.	1044	927.4	72.6
1022	963.7	36.3	1046	924.1	75.9

The urine is extremely prone to decomposition. When kept for a few days, it acquires a strong smell, which, being *sui generis*, has been called *urinous*; and as the decomposition proceeds, the odour becomes extremely disagreeable. The urine, as soon as these changes commence, ceases to have an acid reaction. In a short time, a free alkali makes its appearance; and a large quantity of the carbonate of ammonia is generated, and the earthy phosphates are deposited. These phenomena are owing to the decomposition of urea, which is almost wholly resolved into carbonate of ammonia.

The appearances presented by the urine under the microscope have given rise to numerous investigations of late years: they of course vary, according to the modifications it exhibits in health and disease. In the latter condition, much information has been acquired, so that, according to M. Donné, the study of the urine may be said to be "the triumph of the microscope."<sup>a</sup> The appearances, however, it presents in disease, do not belong to a work on physiology.<sup>b</sup>

Dr. Henry<sup>c</sup> affirms, that the following substances have been satisfactorily proved to exist in healthy urine,—water, free phosphoric acid, phosphate of lime, phosphate of magnesia, fluoric acid, uric acid, benzoic acid, lactic acid, urea, gelatin, albumen, lactate of ammonia, sulphate of potassa, sulphate of soda, fluuate of lime, chloride of sodium, phosphate of soda, phosphate of ammonia, sulphur and silex. One of the most elaborate analyses has been given by Berzelius.<sup>d</sup> He states it to consist—in 1000 parts—of water, 933.00; urea, 30.10; sulphate of potassa, 3.71; sulphate of soda, 3.16; phosphate of soda, 2.94; chloride of sodium, 4.45; phosphate of ammonia, 1.65; muriate of ammonia, 1.50; free lactic acid,

<sup>a</sup> For the appearances presented by the urine under the microscope, see Quevenne, and Vigla, *l'Expérience*, Dec. 1837, Janvier, 1838, & Mars, 1838; Donné, *ibid.* Janvier, 1838; and for new researches on Human Urine, see Lecanu, *Journal de Pharmacie*, Nov. and Dec. 1839; Dr. G. Bird, *op. cit.*; Mandl, *Manuel d'Anatomie Générale*, p. 504, Paris, 1843; Prout, on the Nature and Treatment of Stomach and Renal Diseases, 4th edit., p. 517, Lond. 1843; and Donné, *Cours de Microscopie*, p. 213, Paris, 1844.

<sup>b</sup> See the author's *Practice of Medicine*, 2d edit. ii. 281, Philad. 1844; and his edition of the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, Art. Urine, Morbid States of the, by Dr. Bostock, Philad. 1845; also, Dr. G. Bird, on Urinary Deposits, Amer. edit. Philad. 1845.

<sup>c</sup> *Elements of Experimental Chemistry*, vol. ii.

<sup>d</sup> *Med. Chirurgical Transact.* vol. iii.; and *Annals of Philos.* ii. 423; and *The Kidneys and Urine*, by J. J. Berzelius, translated from the German, by M. H. Boyé, and F. Leaming, M. D., p. 97, Philad. 1843.

lactate of ammonia, animal matter, soluble in alcohol, and urea not separable from the preceding, 17·14; earthy phosphates, with a trace of fluato of lime, 1·00; lithic acid, 1·00; mucus of the bladder, 0·32; silex, 0·03. Dr. Prout<sup>a</sup> found 100 parts to consist of lithic acid, 90·16; potassa, 3·45; ammonia, 1·70; sulphate of potassa, with a trace of chloride of sodium, ·95; phosphate of lime, carbonate of lime, and magnesia, ·80; and animal matter, consisting of mucus and a little colouring matter, 2·94. M. Raspail<sup>b</sup> thinks it "possible" that uric acid is merely a mixture of organic matter (albumen) with an acid cyanide of mercury; so that the results of analysis may differ according as the analyzed substances may have been more or less separated from the organic matter. The physical and chemical characters of true uric acid, he thinks, accord very well with this hypothesis.

Elaborate researches have been undertaken by Liebig,<sup>c</sup> as regards the constitution of the urine,—whence he derives the following inferences. *First.* That neither lactic acid nor any lactate exists in healthy urine. In this he differs from most observers. *Secondly.* That hippuric acid is a constant constituent. *Thirdly.* That the acid reaction of healthy urine is due to the presence of the acid phosphate of soda. *Fourthly.* That the acidity of the urine is maintained and increased by the following changes. The urine of man and the carnivora contains a large quantity of sulphates; but their food does not contain either those salts ready formed, or any oxygen-compound of sulphur. The sulphur which it does contain, or, which amounts to the same thing, the sulphur of the transformed tissues must therefore combine with the oxygen in the body, and the sulphuric acid thus formed, combining with part of the alkali of the alkaline phosphates, converts them into acid phosphates. *Lastly.* It follows, that whether the urine be acid or not depends upon the nature and quantity of the bases taken with the food. If the amount be sufficient to neutralize the uric, hippuric, and sulphuric acids formed by the organism, and the acids supplied by the food, the urine must be neutral; if the amount be more than enough, the urine must be alkaline; if less, acid. Hence no physiological or pathological inference can be drawn from an examination of the urine, unless an account be taken of the inorganic acids, salts, and bases taken with the food.

Notwithstanding, however, the view of Liebig, that the uric acid of the urine is held in solution by the phosphate of soda combining with a part of the base, and setting free a portion of the phosphoric acid, Dr. Golding Bird,<sup>d</sup> adheres to the opinion of Dr. Prout, that the uric acid is combined with ammonia. "Uric acid," he says, "at the moment of separation from the blood, meets the double phosphate of soda and ammonia derived from the food, and forms urate of

<sup>a</sup> *Annals of Philos.* v. 415. See, also, an analysis by Prof. Thomas Thomson, in *Records of General Science*, ii. 3.

<sup>b</sup> *Op. citat.*, p. 507.

<sup>c</sup> *Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie*, Mai; or *London Lancet*, June 1-8, 1844; and *Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* April, 1845, p. 569.

<sup>d</sup> *Urinary Deposits, &c.*, p. 42, Lond. 1844.

ammonia, evolving phosphoric acid, which thus produces the natural acid reaction of the urine."

Healthy urine has been recently analyzed by Becquerel, Lehmann, Simon, Marchard, and Day. The analyses of Lehmann and Marchard approximate that by Berzelius; whilst those of Becquerel, Simon, and Day, agree pretty closely with each other.\* The following are two of Simon's analyses.

	I.	II.
Water, - - - - -	963.00	956.000
Solid constituents, - - - - -	36.20	44.00
Urea, - - - - -	12.46	14.578
Uric acid, - - - - -	0.52	0.710
Alcohol extract and lactic acid, - - - - -	5.10	4.600
Spirit extract, - - - - -	2.60	5.593
Water extract and mucus, - - - - -	1.00	2.550
Lactate of ammonia, - - - - -	1.03	
Chloride of ammonium, - - - - -	0.41	
Chloride of sodium, - - - - -	5.20	7.260
Sulphate of potassa, - - - - -	3.00	3.508
Phosphate of soda, - - - - -	2.41	2.330
Earthy phosphates, - - - - -	0.58	0.654
Silica, - - - - -	a trace	a trace.

The yellowish-red incrustation, deposited on the sides of chamber utensils, is the uric or lithic acid. This is the basis of one of the varieties of calculi.

The quantity of urine, passed in the twenty-four hours, is very variable. Boissier states it at 22 ounces; Hartmann at 28; Dr. Robt. Willis<sup>b</sup> at from 30 to 40; Prout at 32; Robinson at 35; Von Gorter at 36; Keill at 38; Rye at 39; Bostock at 40; Sanctorius at 44; Stark at 46; Dalton at 48½; Haller at 49; Christison at from 35 to 50; Becquerel at about 46; Dr. Thomas Thomson at 53; and Lining at from 56 to 59 ounces.<sup>c</sup> On the average, it may be estimated perhaps at two pounds and a half; hence the cause of the great size of the renal artery, which, according to the estimate of Haller, conveys to the kidney a sixth or eighth part of the whole blood. Its quantity and character vary according to age, and, to a certain extent, according to sex. We have already seen, under the head of *cutaneous exhalation*, how it varies, according to climate and season; and it is influenced by the serous, pulmonary, and cellular exhalations likewise: one of the almost invariable concomitants of dropsy is diminution of the renal secretion. Its character, too, is modified by the nature of the substances received into the blood. Rhubarb, turpentine, and asparagus materially alter its physical properties; whilst certain articles stimulate the kidney to augmented secretion, or are "diuretics."

The renal secretion may be considered as arising from different sources. When much fluid is taken, the amount of the urine is

\* Dr. Day's Report on Physiological and Pathological Chemistry, in Ranking's Abstract, Pt. i. p. 283. Amer. edit. New York, 1845; and Huschke, Encyclop. Anat. v. 329. Paris, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Urinary Diseases and their Treatment, Bell's Library edit., p. 14. Philad. 1839.

<sup>c</sup> Burdach, op. citat. v. 271. See, also, Becquerel, Séméiotique des Urines, ou Traité des Altérations de l'Urine dans les Maladies, &c., Paris, 1841; and Thomson, Chemistry of Animal Bodies, p. 459, Edinb. 1843.

largely augmented, so that it is manifestly intended to remove superfluous fluid from the blood. It is also, as just shown, materially modified by certain ingesta; and not unfrequently the character of the food taken may be detected in it; hence it has been conceived the kidneys may have the duty of removing from the system any crude or undigested elements of the food which had been absorbed whilst traversing the small intestine, and entered the circulating mass; and of excreting the often noxious results of imperfect or unhealthy assimilation.\* Dr. Lehmann instituted a series of experiments on himself,<sup>b</sup> which afforded interesting information in regard to the varying composition of the urine, according as an animal, a vegetable, a mixed, or a non-azotized diet was employed. On the mixed diet he lived fifteen days; ate and drank moderately, and abstained from all fermented liquors. He took an exclusive animal diet for twelve days, consuming thirty-two eggs each day. A purely vegetable diet was also continued for twelve days; but the non-azotized was only taken for two days. In the following table the quantities of solid matter passed daily are represented by grammes (about 15½ grains troy each); and also the proportional amount of salts and animal matter in that quantity of solid matter.

	Solid matter.	Urea.	Uric acid.	Lithic acid and salts.	Extractive matters.
Mixed diet -	67.82	32.498	1.183	2.257	10.489
Animal diet -	87.44	53.198	1.478	2.167	5.145
Vegetable diet -	59.24	22.481	1.021	2.669	16.499
Non-azotized diet	41.68	15.408	0.735	5.276	11.854

Dr. Lehmann's results certainly show—*first*, that animal food increases the solid matters in the urine, whilst vegetable substances, and especially non-azotized aliments, diminish them:—*secondly*, that the proportion of azote in the urine depends in part upon the kind of food taken,—food rich in azote greatly increasing its amount. In his experiments, the proportion of urea to the other solid matters was as 100 to 116 under a mixed diet; as 100 to 63 under an animal diet; as 100 to 156 under a vegetable diet; and as 100 to 170 under a non-azotized diet: *thirdly*, that the proportion of uric acid in the urine did not appear to have reference to the kind of food:—*fourthly*, that the urine contained quantities of sulphates and phosphates proportioned to the quantity of azotized matters that had been absorbed: and, *fifthly*, that under an animal diet the quantity of extractive matters diminishes; whilst it is increased by the use of a vegetable diet.

The urine does not appear to be intended for any local function. Its use seems to be restricted to the removal of the elements of the substances, of which it is composed, from the blood; hence, it is solely depuratory and decomposing. How this decomposition is accomplished we know not. We have already referred to the experiments, performed by MM. Prévost and Dumas, Ségalas, Gmelin, Tiedemann and Mitscherlich, in which urea was found in the blood of animals whose kidneys had been extirpated: an inquiry has consequently arisen—how it exists there? Prior to these experiments, it

\* Dr. Bird, on Urinary Deposits, Amer. edit. p. 26, Philad. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> L'Expérience, 7th Dec. 1843; cited in Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, April, 1844.

was universally believed, that its formation is one of the mysterious functions executed in the intimate tissue of the kidney.<sup>a</sup> It is proper to add, however, that neither Prévost and Dumas, Tiedemann and Gmelin, nor M. Lecanu<sup>b</sup> could detect the smallest trace of this substance in the blood of animals placed under ordinary circumstances. Others, however, have affirmed, that it exists there normally, but in very small quantity.<sup>c</sup> It is, according to Wöhler and Raspail, a cyanate of ammonia,<sup>d</sup> and contains a very large proportion of azote. The general opinion of physiologists is, that the kidney is the outlet for an excess of azote—preventing its accumulation in the system in the same manner as the lungs and liver are outlets for superfluous carbon. The quantity of azote, discharged in the form of urea, is so great, even in those animals whose food does not essentially contain this element, that it has been conceived a necessary ingredient in the nutrition of parts, and especially in the formation of fibrin, which is a chief constituent of the blood, and of every muscular organ. The remarks made on the absorption of azote during respiration, indicate one mode in which it is received into the system; and it has been presumed, that the superfluous portion is thrown off in the form of urea. There are three great modes in which the azote thrown off by the urine may be obtained: *first*, from the air of respiration; *secondly*, from the food; for it is probable—as suggested by Dr. Lehmann—that compounds of protein, and consequently the azote of the food, are absorbed from the intestinal canal; and that the azote which is not required for the wants of the system is thrown off from the kidneys in the form of urea and uric acid; and *thirdly*, in the disintegration of the tissues constantly occurring in the system of nutrition: whilst certain of the elements that are superfluous are thrown off by the lungs and liver; the kidneys separate and throw off the superfluous azote. Inferring from the results of Dr. Lehmann's experiments, Dr. Carpenter considers it evident, that so long as the ingesta contain no azote, the whole of that element in the urine must be attributed to the disintegration or waste of the tissues, and may fairly be taken as a measure of its amount. This, however, is by no means established. We have no positive proof that the azote received into the circulation in respiration is foreign to the formation of the azotized compounds contained in the urine.<sup>e</sup>

The removal of the constituents of the urinary secretion from the blood is all-important. Experiments on animals have shown, that if it be suppressed by any cause for about three days, death usually supervenes, and the dangers to man are equally imminent. Yet there are some strange cases of protracted suppression on record. Haller mentions a case in which no urine had been secreted for twenty-two

<sup>a</sup> *Annales de Chimie*, xliii. 64, and Raspail's *Chimie Organique*, p. 506.

<sup>b</sup> *Etudes Chimiques sur le Sang Humain*, Paris, 1837.

<sup>c</sup> Carpenter, *Principles of Physiology*, 2d Amer. edit. p. 53, Philad. 1845.

<sup>d</sup> Berzelius, *The Kidneys and Urine*, translated by M. H. Boyé and F. Leaming, M. D., p. 73, Philad. 1843; Graham's *Elements of Chemistry*, Amer. edit. by Dr. Bridges, p. 671, Philad. 1843; and Thomson, *Chemistry of Animal Bodies*, p. 77, Edinb. 1843.

<sup>e</sup> *Op. cit.*, § 680, Philad. 1845.

weeks, and Dr. Richardson<sup>a</sup> one of a lad of seventeen, who had never made any and yet felt no inconvenience.

a. *Connexion between the Stomach and the Kidneys.*

In consequence of the rapidity with which fluids, received into the stomach, are sometimes voided by the urinary organs, it has been imagined, either that vessels exist, which communicate directly between the stomach and bladder, or that the fluid passes through the intermediate cellular tissue, or by means of the anastomoses of the lymphatics. Some recent experiments of Mr. Erichsen,<sup>b</sup> which consisted in introducing certain substances, which are readily detected by appropriate tests, into the stomach, and noting their appearance in the urine, signally exhibit the rapidity of this transmission. The earliest period at which prussiate of potassa was detected in the urine was about one minute after being swallowed; and the longest period was thirty-nine minutes: the difference appeared to depend upon the presence or absence of food in the stomach at the time. When it was empty, the salt was detected in from one to two and a half minutes; whilst, soon after a meal, it required from six and a half to thirty-nine minutes.

In support of the opinion, that a more direct passage exists, the assertion of Chirac,—that he saw the urinary bladder become filled with urine when the ureters were tied, and that he excited urinous vomiting by tying the renal arteries,—is adduced. It has been farther affirmed, that the oil, composing a glyster, has been found in the bladder. Darwin,<sup>c</sup> having administered to a friend a few grains of nitrate of potassa, collected his urine at the expiration of half an hour, and had him bled. The salt was detected in the urine, but not in the blood. Brande made similar experiments with the prussiate of potassa, from which he inferred that the circulation is not the only medium of communication between the stomach and the urinary organs, without, however, indicating the nature of the supposed medium; and this view is embraced by Sir Everard Home,<sup>d</sup> Wollaston, Marcet, and others. Lippi,<sup>e</sup> of Florence, thinks he has found an anatomical explanation of the fact. According to him, the chyloferous vessels have not only numerous inosculation with the mesenteric veins, either before their entrance into the mesenteric glands, or whilst they traverse the glands, but, when they attain the last of those glands, some of them proceed to open directly into the renal veins, and into the pelves of the kidneys. At this place, according to him, the chyloferous vessels divide into two sets; the one, ascending, and conveying the chyle into the thoracic duct; the other, descending, and carrying the drinks into the renal veins and pelves of the kidneys. He affirms,

<sup>a</sup> Philos. Transact. for 1713; and Elliotson's Blumenbach's Physiology, 4th edit., Lond. 1828.

<sup>b</sup> Dublin Medical Press, July 9, 1845, and Ranking's Abstract, Part ii., p. 241, Amer. edit., New York, 1846.

<sup>c</sup> Zoonomia, xxix. 3.

<sup>d</sup> Philosophical Transactions, xlviii. 51, and ci. 163, for 1808 and 1811; and Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, i. 221, Lond. 1814; and iii. 138, Lond. 1823.

<sup>e</sup> Illustrazioni Fisiologiche e Patologiche del Sistema Linfatico-Chilifero, &c. Firenze, 1825.

that the distinction between these two sets is so marked, that an injection sent into the former goes exclusively into the thoracic duct, whilst if it be thrown into the latter it passes exclusively to the kidneys. These direct vessels Lippi calls *vasa chylopoietica urinifera*. If the assertions of Lippi were anatomical facts, it would obviously be difficult to doubt some of the deductions: other anatomists have not, however, been so fortunate as he; and, consequently, it may be well to make a few comments. Some of these chylopoietica urinifera, he affirms, open into the renal veins. This arrangement, it is obvious, cannot be invoked to account for the shorter route,—the *royal road* to the kidney; the renal vessel is conveying the blood back *from* the kidney, and every thing that reaches it from the intestines, must necessarily pass into the vena cava, and ultimately attain the kidney through the renal artery. The vessels, therefore, that end in the renal veins, must be put entirely out of the question, so far as regards the topic in dispute; and attention be concentrated upon those that terminate in the pelvis of the kidney. Were this termination proved, we should be compelled, as we have remarked, to bow to authority; but not having been so, it may be stated as seemingly improbable, that the ducts in question should take the circuitous course to the pelvis of the kidney, instead of proceeding directly to the bladder.

We know then, anatomically, nothing of any canal existing between the stomach and the bladder; and we have not the slightest evidence—positive or relative—in favour of the opinion, that there is any transmission of fluid through the intermediate cellular tissue. There is, indeed, absolute testimony against it. MM. Tiedemann and Gmelin, having examined the lymphatics and cellular tissue of the abdomen, in cases where they had administered indigo and essence of turpentine to animals, discovered no traces whatever of them, whilst they could be detected in the kidney. The *facts*, again, referred to by Chirac, are doubtful. If the renal arteries be tied, the secretion cannot be effected by the kidney; yet, as we have seen, in the case of extirpated kidneys, urea may exist in the blood, and, consequently, urinous vomitings be possible. If the ureters be tied, the secretion being practicable, death will occur if the suppression be protracted; and, in such case, the secreted fluid may pass into the vessels, and readily give a urinous character to the perspiration, vomited matters, &c., &c. The experiments of Darwin, Brande, Wollaston, and others only demonstrate, that these gentlemen were unable to detect in the blood that which they found in the urine. Against the *negative* results attained by these gentlemen, we may adduce the positive testimony of Fodéra,\* an experimentalist of weight, especially on those matters. He introduced into the bladder of a rabbit a plugged catheter, and tied the penis upon the instrument to prevent the urine from flowing along its sides. He then injected into the stomach a solution of the ferrocyanate of potassa. This being done, he frequently removed the plug of the catheter, and received the drops of urine on filtering paper: as soon as indications of

\* Recherches Expérimentales sur l'Absorption et l'Exhalation. Paris, 1824.



the presence of the salt appeared in the urine by the appropriate tests,—which usually required from five to ten minutes after its reception into the stomach,—the animal was killed; and, on examining the blood, the salt was found in the serum taken from the thoracic portion of the vena cava inferior, in the right and left cavities of the heart, in the aorta, the thoracic duct, the mesenteric glands, the kidneys, the joints, and in the mucous membrane of the bronchia. Magendie,\* too, states, as the result of his experiments,—*First*. That whenever prussiate of potassa is injected into the veins, or is exposed to absorption in the intestinal canal, or in a serous cavity, it speedily passes into the bladder, where it can be readily recognised in the urine. *Secondly*. That if the quantity of prussiate injected be considerable, it can be detected in the blood by reagents; but if the quantity be small, it is impossible to discover it by the ordinary means. *Thirdly*. That the same thing happens if the prussiate of potassa be mixed with the blood out of the body. *Fourthly*. That the salt can be detected, in every proportion, in the urine.

We may conclude, therefore, with Dr. Hale,<sup>b</sup> who has written an interesting paper on this subject, that the existence of any more direct route from the stomach to the bladder than the circulatory system and the kidneys is disproved; and the absorption of fluids must be considered to be effected through the vessels described under the Absorption of Drinks. The facts, referred to elsewhere, showing the extreme rapidity of the circulation, materially facilitate our comprehension of these cases.

Such are the glandular secretions, which we shall consider in this place. There are still two important fluids, the *sperm* and the *milk*, whose uses will have to be detailed under the next class of functions.

#### GLANDIFORM GANGLIONS.

There are several organs,—as the spleen, thyroid, thymus, and supra-renal capsules,—which are termed glands by many anatomists; but which Chaussier has termed *glandiform ganglions*. Of the uses of these we know little or nothing. Yet it is necessary that the nature of the organs and their fancied functions should meet with notice. The offices of the thyroid, thymus, and supra-renal capsules,—being chiefly confined to foetal existence,—will not require consideration here.

#### a. The Spleen.

The *spleen* is a viscus of considerable size, situate in the left hypochondriac region, (Fig. 250, 1,) beneath the diaphragm, above the left kidney, and to the left of the stomach. Its medium length is about four and a half inches; its thickness two and a half inches; and its weight about eight ounces.<sup>c</sup> Its absolute weight, and its weight in proportion to that of the whole body, increases rapidly,

\* Précis, &c., il. 477.

<sup>b</sup> Boylston, Prize Dissertations for the years 1819 and 1821. Boston, 1821.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Gross, Elements of Pathological Anatomy, 2d edit., p. 674, Philad. 1845.

according to Huschke,<sup>a</sup> after birth; and its proportionate weight soon attains its highest standard, so that, in the adult, it has no decidedly greater proportion to the body than it has at birth: in some cases, it even decreases. It varies between 1 to 235 and 1 to 240.<sup>b</sup> Its relation to the weight of the liver is proportionally greater in the adult than in the infant. It is of a soft texture, somewhat spongy to the feel, and easily torn. In a very recent subject, it is of a grayish-blue colour; which, in a few hours, changes to a purple, so that it resembles a mass of clotted blood. At its inner surface, or that which faces the stomach and kidney, a fissure exists, by which the vessels, nerves, &c., enter or issue from the organ.

The anatomical elements of the spleen are:—1. The *splenic artery*, which arises from the cœliac, and after having given off branches to the pancreas and the left gastro-epiploic artery, divides into several branches, which enter the spleen at the fissure, and ramify in the tissue of the organ, so that it seems to be exclusively formed by them. Whilst the branches of the artery are still in the duplicature of the gastro-splenic omentum, and before they ramify in the spleen, they furnish the vasa brevia to the stomach. The precise mode of termination of the arteries in the spleen is unknown: the communication of the arteries with the veins does not, however, appear to be as free as in other parts of the body, or the anastomoses between the minute arteries as numerous. If, according to Assolant,<sup>c</sup> one of the branches of the splenic artery be tied, the portion of the spleen to which it is distributed dies; and if air be injected into one of these branches, it does not pass into the other; so that the spleen would appear to be a congeries of several distinct lobes; and in certain animals the lobes are so separated as to constitute several spleens. A similar appearance is occasionally seen in the human subject. 2. The *splenic vein* arises by numerous radicles in the tissue of the spleen: these become gradually larger, and less numerous, and leave the fissure of the spleen by three or four trunks, which ultimately, with veins from the stomach and pancreas, unite to form one, that opens into the vena portæ. It is without valves, and its parietes are thin. These are the chief constituents. 3. *Lymphatic vessels*, which are large and numerous. 4. *Nerves*, proceeding from the cœliac plexus: they creep along the coats of the splenic artery—upon which they form an intricate plexus—into the substance of the spleen. 5. *Cellular tissue*, which serves as a bond of union between these various parts; but is in extremely small quantity. 6. A *proper membrane*, which envelopes the organ externally; adheres closely to it, and furnishes fibrous sheaths to the ramifications of the artery and vein; keeping the ramifications separated from the tissue of the organ, and sending prolongations into the parenchyma, which gives it more of a reticulated than spongy aspect. 7. Of *blood*, according to many anatomists; but blood differing from that of both the splenic artery and vein; containing, according to Vauquelin, less colouring

<sup>a</sup> Cited in British and Foreign Medical Review, Oct. 1845, p. 420.

<sup>b</sup> The French translation of Jourdan says between 1 to 235 and 1 to 400.—Encyclop. Anatom. v. 172. Paris, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Recherches sur la Rate. Paris, 1801.

matter and fibrin, and more albumen and gelatin, than any other kind of blood. This, by stagnating in the organ, is conceived to form an integrant part of it. Malpighi<sup>a</sup> believed it to be contained in cells; but others have supposed it to be situate in a capillary system intermediate to the splenic artery and vein.<sup>b</sup>

Assolant and Meckel<sup>c</sup> believe, that the blood is in a peculiar state of combination and of intimate union with the other organic elements of the viscus, and with a large quantity of albumen; and that this combination of the blood forms the dark brown pulpy substance, contained in the cells formed by the proper coat, and which can be easily demonstrated by tearing or cutting the spleen, and scraping it with the handle of a knife. These cells and the character of the tissue of the spleen are exhibited in the marginal figure. (Fig. 275.) In addition to the pulp, there is an abundance of rounded corpuscles, varying in size from an almost imperceptible magnitude to a line or more in diameter. By Malpighi, these were conceived to be granular corpuscles, and, by Ruysch,<sup>d</sup> simply convoluted vessels. Andral<sup>e</sup> affirms, that by repeated washings, the spleen is shown to consist of an infinite number of cells, which communicate on the one hand together, and, on the other, directly with the splenic veins. The latter, when the inner surface of the large subdivisions of the splenic veins are examined, appear to have a great number of perforations, through which a probe passes directly into the cells of the organ. The farther the subdivisions of the vein examined are from the trunk, the larger are these perforations, and still farther on, the coats of the vein are not a continued surface, but are split into filaments, which do not differ from those forming the cells, and are continuous with them.<sup>f</sup> M. Bourgery has maintained that the fibrous envelope of the spleen sends off a multitude of lamellæ, which penetrate into its interior, forming irregular spaces of

Fig. 275.



Section of the Spleen.

<sup>a</sup> Op. Omnia, part ii., Lond. 1687; and Op. Posthum. p. 42. Lond. 1697.

<sup>b</sup> Seiler, in art. Milz, in Pierer's Anat. Physiol. Wörterbuch, B. v. s. 322. Altenburg, 1832.

<sup>c</sup> Handbuch, &c., traduit par Jourdan, iii. 476, Paris, 1825.

<sup>d</sup> Meckel, op. citat.

<sup>e</sup> Précis d'Anatomie Pathologique, tom. ii. part i. p. 416, Paris, 1832.

<sup>f</sup> See, also, Sir E. Home's Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, iii. 148; Dr. Warner on the Distribution of the Splenic Vein, in the spleen of the ox and sheep, in American Journal of the Med. Sciences, Feb. 1836, p. 541; and Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, u. s. w., Band iv. s. 328, Braunschweig, 1832;—and on the Minute Structure of the Spleen, Bourgery, Gaz. Méd., Juin 11, 1842; and Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1842, p. 541.

unequal dimensions. These short spaces he calls *splenic vesicles*. In the septa, a number of lymphatic glands exists. The capillaries of the arteries communicate directly with those of the veins; but, according to M. Bourgery, there are, in addition, veins with patulous orifices. The interior of the vesicles is filled with a soft substance of a deep red colour, in which the small white corpuscles, discovered by Malpighi, are suspended. M. Mandl<sup>a</sup> suggests, that the white corpuscles may be analogous to the intestinal villi, in which the lymphatics originate by a cæcal extremity.

Recently, the structure of the spleen has been intimately investigated by Dr. Evans.<sup>b</sup> The organ, he thinks, is essentially composed of a fibrous membrane, which constitutes its exterior envelope, and sends prolongations in all directions across its interior, so as to divide it into a number of irregularly shaped splenic cells, communicating freely with each other and with the splenic vein, and lined by a membrane continuous with that of the vein, which is so reflected upon itself as to leave oval or circular foramina, by which each cell communicates with the others and the vein. The diameter of these cells is estimated at from one-third to half a line, and they are generally traversed by filaments of elastic tissue, embedded in which a minute artery and vein may frequently be observed. Over these filaments the lining membrane is reflected in folds; so that each cell is thus incompletely divided into two or more small compartments. No direct communication exists between the splenic artery and the interior of the cells; but its branches are distributed through the intercellular parenchyma, and the small veins, which collect the blood from the arterial capillaries of the organ, carry it into the cells whence it is conveyed away by the splenic vein. The cells may be readily injected from the splenic vein with either air or liquid, provided they are not filled with coagulated blood; and they are so distensible—as has been long known—that the organ may be made to dilate to many times its original size, with very little force. The cells of the spleen, according to Dr. Evans, never contain any thing but blood; and a frequent appearance after death is that of firmly coagulated blood filling them, and giving a granular aspect to the organ, which is sometimes described as morbid. The partitions between the cells are formed by the membranes already mentioned, and by the proper parenchyma of the spleen. To the eye it has a semi-fluid appearance, but when an attempt is made to tear it, considerable resistance is experienced, in consequence of its being intersected by what seem to be minute fibres. When a small portion is pressed, a liquid exudes—the *Liquor Lienis* or splenic blood, which is usually described as filling the cells of the spleen; but according to Dr. Evans this is erroneous. This liquid, when diluted with serum, and examined under the microscope, is found to contain two kinds of corpuscles—one apparently identical with ordinary blood corpuscles—the other with the corpuscles characteristic of the lymph, and abundant in the lymphatic ganglions. The remaining fibrous substance

<sup>a</sup> Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 518, Paris, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Lancet, April 6, 1844.

consists wholly of capillary blood-vessels and lymphatics with minute corpuscles, much smaller than blood corpuscles, varying in size from about  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th to  $\frac{1}{7000}$ th of an inch, of spherical form, and usually corrugated on the surface. These lie in great numbers in the meshes of the sanguiferous capillaries; and the minute lymphatics are described by Dr. Evans as connected with the splenic corpuscles, and apparently arising from them. Lying in the midst of the parenchyma is a large number of bodies, of about a third of a line in diameter, which are evidently in close connexion with the vascular system. These are the Malpighian bodies of the spleen. According to Dr. Evans, they, in all respects, resemble the mesenteric or lymphatic ganglions in miniature—consisting, as they do, of convoluted masses of blood-vessels and lymphatics, united together by elastic tissue, so as to possess considerable firmness; and they farther correspond with them in this,—that the lymph they contain, which was quite transparent in their afferent vessels, now becomes somewhat milky, from containing a large number of lymph corpuscles.\*

Besides the proper membrane, the spleen also receives a peritoneal coat; and, between the stomach and the organ, the peritoneum forms the *gastro-splenic epiploon* or *gastro-splenic ligament*, in the duplication of which are situate the vasa brevia.

Lastly: the spleen, as remarked above, is capable of distension and contraction; and is possessed of little sensibility in the healthy state. It has no excretory duct.

The hypotheses, which have been indulged on the nature of the spleen, are beyond measure numerous and visionary; and, after all, we are in the greatest obscurity as to its real uses. Many of these hypotheses are too idle to merit notice: such are those, that consider it to be the seat of the soul,—the organ of dreaming, of melancholy and of laughter, of sleep and the venereal appetite,—the organ that secretes the mucilaginous fluids of the joints, that serves as a warm fomentation to the stomach, and so on. It was long regarded as a secretory apparatus, for the formation of the atrabilis,—of a fluid intended to nourish the nerves,—of the gastric juice,—of a humour intended to temper the alkaline character of the chyle or bile, &c. The absence of an excretory duct would be a sufficient answer to all these speculations, if the non-existence of the supposititious humours were insufficient to exhibit their absurdity. MM. Tiedemann and Gmelin<sup>b</sup> consider its functions to be identical with those of the mesenteric glands. They regard it as a ganglion of the absorbent system, which prepares a fluid to be mixed with the chyle and effect its animalization. In favour of the view, that it is a part of the lymphatic system, they remark, that it exists only in those animals that have a distinct absorbent system; that its bulk is in a ratio with the developement of the absorbent system; that the lymphatics predominate in the structure of the organ; that its texture is like that of the lymphatic ganglions; and lastly, that on dissecting a turtle they distinctly saw

\* Carpenter, Principles of Human Physiology, 2d edit. p. 649, London, 1844.

<sup>b</sup> Versuche über die Wege auf welchen Substanzen aus dem Magen und Darmkanal ins Blut gelangen, p. 86, Heidelberg, 1820.

all the lymphatics of the abdomen passing first to the spleen, then leaving that organ of larger size, and proceeding to the thoracic duct. In support of their second position, that it furnishes some material towards the animalization of the chyle, they adduce,—the large size of the splenic artery, which manifestly, they conceive, carries more blood to the spleen than is needed for its nutrition; and they affirm, that, in their experiments, they have frequently found, whilst digestion and chylosis were going on, the lymphatic vessels of the spleen gorged with a reddish fluid, which was carried by them into the thoracic duct, where the chyle always has the most rosy hue; and that a substance injected into the splenic artery passes readily into the lymphatics of the spleen. Lastly, after extirpating the spleen in animals, the chyle appeared to them to be more transparent,—no longer depositing coagula; and the lymphatic ganglions of the abdomen seemed to have augmented in size. Views, similar to these have been maintained by Sir Everard Home.<sup>a</sup>

Chaussier, as we have seen, classes the spleen amongst the *glandiform ganglions*, and affirms, that a fluid is exhaled into its interior, of a serous or sanguineous character, which, when absorbed, assists in lymphosis.

Many, again, have believed, that the spleen is a sanguineous, not a lymphatic ganglion, but they have differed regarding the blood on which it exerts its action; some maintaining, that it prepares the blood for the secretion of gastric juice; others, for that of the bile. The former of these views is at once repelled by the fact, that the vessels which pass from the splenic artery to the stomach leave that vessel before it enters the spleen. The latter has been urged, of late, by M. Voisin.<sup>b</sup> He thinks, the principal use of the spleen is to furnish to the liver blood containing those materials that enter into the composition of the bile; but this view, also, rests on very uncertain data and deductions.

Since the period of Haller, the blood of the splenic vein has been presumed to differ essentially from that of other veins, which has led to the belief, that some elaboration is effected in the spleen so as to fit the blood for the secretion of the bile. It has been described as more aqueous, more albuminous, more unctuous, and blacker than other venous blood; to be less coagulable, less rich in fibrin, and the fibrin it does contain to be less animalized. Yet these affirmations have been denied; and even were they admitted, we have no positive knowledge, that such changes better adapt it for the formation of bile by the liver.

The ideas that have existed, regarding its acting as a diverticulum for the blood, have been mentioned under the head of Circulation. By some, it has been supposed to act as such in the intervals of digestion;<sup>c</sup> or in other words, to be a diverticulum to the stomach: by others, its agency in this way is believed to apply to the whole circu-

<sup>a</sup> Philosoph. Transactions for 1808 and 1811; and Lect. on Comp. Anatomy, loc. cit.

<sup>b</sup> Nouvel Aperçu sur la Physiologie du Foie et les Usages de la Bile, Paris, 1833.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. W. Stukely, Of the Spleen, its Description and History, Uses and Diseases, &c., Lond., 1722; and Dr. G. Dermott, Medical Times, April 3, 1841.

latory-system, so that when the flow of blood is impeded or arrested in other parts, it may be received into the spleen. Such a view was entertained by Dr. Rush,<sup>a</sup> and it has been embraced by many others.<sup>b</sup>

It is hard to say which of these speculations is the most ingenious. None can satisfy the judicious physiologist, especially when he considers the comparative impunity consequent on extirpation of the organ. This was an operation performed at an early period. Pliny affirms that it was practised on runners to render them more swift. From animals the spleen has been repeatedly removed, and although many of these have died in consequence of the operation, several have recovered.<sup>c</sup> Adelon<sup>d</sup> refers to the case of a man who was wounded by a knife under the last false rib of the left side. Surgical attendance was not had until twelve hours afterwards; and as the spleen had issued at the wound, and was much altered, it was considered necessary to extirpate it. The vessels were tied; the man got well in less than two months, and has ever since enjoyed good health. Sir Charles Bell<sup>e</sup> asserts, that an old pupil had given him an account of his having cut off the spleen in a native of South America. The spleen had escaped through a wound, and had become gangrenous. He could observe no effect to result from the extirpation. T. Chapman,<sup>f</sup> Esq., of Purneah, in India, has related a case of excision of a portion of the spleen by Dr. Macdonald of that station. A native, about thirty years of age, was gored in the abdomen by a buffalo; and through the wound, which was about three inches in length, a portion of the spleen protruded. Six days afterwards, the man sought advice from Dr. Macdonald, who removed the spleen with a knife, and the patient rapidly recovered.

Dr. O'Brien, in an inaugural dissertation, published at Edinburgh, in 1818, refers to a case which fell under his own management. The man was a native of Mexico: the spleen lay out, owing to a wound of the abdomen, for two days before the surgeon was applied to. The bleeding was profuse; the vessels and other connexions were secured by ligature, and the spleen separated completely on the twentieth day of the wound. On the forty-fifth day, the man was discharged from the hospital, cured; and he remarked to some one about this time, that "he felt as well as ever he did in his life."<sup>g</sup> The case of a man has been recently reported, who lived in good health for thirteen years after the spleen had been removed;<sup>h</sup> and another by M. Berthet de Gray of a middle-aged man, who received a wound in the

<sup>a</sup> Core's Medical Museum, Philad., 1807. See, also, on this subject, art. Milz. in Pierer, op. cit., s. 328; and Mr. Hake, Proceedings of the Royal Society, No. 39, June 20, 1839.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. O'Beirne, Dublin Journal of Medical Science, Nov., 1842, p. 219; Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 709, Lond., 1842; and Dr. Hargreave, Dublin Medical Press, Aug. 10, 1842, p. 81.

<sup>c</sup> J. H. Schulze, de Splene Canibus Exciso, Hal., 1735: Morgagni, Animad. Anat., iii. Animad. xxv. Lugd. Bat., 1741.

<sup>d</sup> Physiol. de l'Homme, 2de édit., tom. iii., Paris, 1829.

<sup>e</sup> Anat. and Physiol., 5th Amer. edit., by Dr. Godman, ii. 363, New York, 1827.

<sup>f</sup> India Journal of Medicine, vol. viii. p. 1; and London Medical Gazette, for May 20, 1837, p. 285.

<sup>g</sup> Blundell's Researches, Physiol. and Pathol. Lond. 1825.

<sup>h</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, No. 28, 1844, cited from Österreich. Med. Wochenschrift, 21 Sept., 1844.

side, through which the spleen eventually protruded, and becoming gangrenous, was removed. The man recovered, and lived thirteen years, enjoying sound health, his digestion being usually good. After death from pneumonia, all that remained of the spleen was found to be a small portion of the size of a filbert, adhering to the stomach.

Dulaurens, Kerckring, Baillie,<sup>a</sup> and others, refer, to cases, in which the spleen was found wanting in man, without any apparent impediment to the functions.

The experiments, which have been made on animals, by removing the spleen, have led to discordant results. Malpighi says, that the operation was followed by increased secretion of urine; Dumas, that the animals had afterwards a voracious appetite; Mead and Mayer, that digestion was impaired, that the evacuations were more liquid, and the bile more watery; Tiedemann and Gmelin, that the chyle appeared more transparent and devoid of clot; Professor Coleman, that the dogs,—the subjects of the experiment,—were fat and indolent. A dog, whose spleen was removed by Mr. Mayo,<sup>b</sup> became, on recovering from the wound, fatter than before: in a year's time it had returned to its former condition, and no difference was observed in its appearance or habits from those of other dogs. Similar results followed the experiments of Dr. Blundell, Mr. Dobson, and Mr. Eagle;<sup>c</sup> and the last gentleman states, that an offer had been made him of a "smart sum of money" by a dealer in Leadenhall Market, if he would tell him his method of fattening animals.

Dupuytren extirpated the spleen of forty dogs on the same day, without tying any vessel, but merely stitching up the wound of the abdomen,—yet no hemorrhage supervened! In the first eight days, half the dogs operated on, died of inflammation of the abdominal viscera induced by the operation, as was proved by dissection. The other twenty got well without any accident, at the end of three weeks at the farthest. At first they manifested a voracious appetite, but it soon resumed its natural standard. They fed on the same aliment, the same drinks, took the same quantity of food, and digestion seemed to be accomplished in the same time. The *fæces* had the same consistence, the same appearance, and the chyle appeared to have the same character. Nor did the other functions offer any modification. Dupuytren opened several of these dogs some time afterwards, and found no apparent change in the abdominal circulation,—in that of the stomach, epiploon, or liver. The last organ, which appeared to some of the experimenters to be enlarged, did not seem to him to be at all so. The bile alone appeared a little thicker, and deposited a slight sediment.<sup>d</sup>

Similar experiments by Bardeleben<sup>e</sup> have led to results of an analo-

<sup>a</sup> *Morbid Anatomy*, 2d edit. p. 260, Lond. 1797; *Meckel's Handbuch der Pathologischen Anatomie*, B. i. s. 608. Leipz. 1812.

<sup>b</sup> *Outlines of Human Physiology*, 4th edit. p. 107, Lond. 1838; and *Outlines of Human Pathology*, p. 128. Lond. 1836.

<sup>c</sup> *Lond. Lancet*, Oct. 8, 1842, p. 58, and Dec. 10, 1842, p. 406.

<sup>d</sup> *Adelon*, *op. cit.*

<sup>e</sup> *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, 23 Mars, 1844; from the *Bulletin of the Royal Academy of Sciences*, cited in *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Jan. 1845.



gous kind. Animals, which survived the extirpation of the spleen appeared to recover their health speedily, and to present no difference from those which had not undergone the operation. He never remarked, however, that they were more voracious than other animals. In no case was the organ regenerated. An animal deprived of both spleen and thyroid, presented no change in any function,—a circumstance, which is in opposition to the view of Tiedemann, that the lymphatic ganglions and thyroid perform the functions of the spleen, when that organ has been extirpated. The incorrectness of the opinion of some physiologists, that extirpation of the spleen causes augmentation of the venereal appetite, but abolition of the procreative power, was shown by M. Bardeleben, by breeding with dogs from which both spleen and thyroid had been removed.

Professor Mayer of Bonn,<sup>a</sup> some time ago, advanced the opinion, that after the extirpation of the spleen, the small lymphatic ganglions in connexion with the splenic artery become enlarged, coalesce, and in no long time form masses of considerable size, which probably execute to a certain extent the functions of the extirpated organ. In ducks and hens, in ten months, a glandular mass existed, equal in size to the original spleen. This, he thinks, will account in part for the trifling disturbance of function resulting from the extirpation of the organ.

It is difficult, then, to arrive at any exclusive theory regarding the offices of this anomalous organ. It is manifestly not essential to life, and therefore not probably inservient to the purposes assigned it by Tiedemann and Gmelin. Its office must evidently be of a supplementary or vicarious nature; and this would accord best, perhaps, with the notion of its serving as a diverticulum; the blood speedily passing, after the organ has been extirpated, into other channels;<sup>b</sup> a view, which, as elsewhere remarked,<sup>c</sup> is somewhat confirmed by the splenic enlargements consequent on repeated attacks of intermittent,—the blood, which has receded from the surface, accumulating perhaps in this organ. It must be admitted, however, that our knowledge of the function is of a singularly negative and unsatisfactory character, and this is strikingly exemplified by the suggestion of Paley<sup>d</sup>—who was certainly not predisposed to arrive at such a conclusion—that the spleen “may be merely a stuffing, a soft cushion to fill up a vacuum or hollow, which, unless occupied, would leave the package loose and unsteady.”

<sup>a</sup> London Med. Times, Mar. 25, 1845, p. 550; cited in Ranking's Abstract, Pt. i. p. 278, Amer. edit. New York, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Bostock, Physiology, 3d edit. p. 580, Lond. 1836. See, also, Hodgkin, in Appendix to translation of Edwards, *De l'Influence des Agens Physiques, &c.*, Lond. 1833.

<sup>c</sup> Practice of Medicine, i. 549, 2d edit. Philad. 1844.

<sup>d</sup> Natural Theology, c. 11.

## BOOK III.

## REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS.

THE functions, which we have been hitherto considering, relate exclusively to the individual. We have now to investigate those that refer to the preservation of the species, and without which living beings would soon cease to exist. Although these functions are really multiple, it has been the custom with physiologists to refer them to one head—*generation*—of which they are made to form the subordinate divisions.

## CHAPTER I.

## GENERATION.

The function of generation, much as it varies amongst organized bodies, is possessed by them exclusively. When a mineral gives rise to another of a similar character, it is at the expense of its own existence; but the animal and the vegetable produce being after being, without any curtailment of theirs.

The writers of antiquity considered, that all organized bodies are produced in one of two ways. Amongst the upper classes of both animals and vegetables, they believed the work of reproduction to be effected by a process, which is termed *univocal* or *regular generation*, (*generatio homogenea, propagatio*;) but in the very lowest classes, as the mushroom, the worm, the frog, &c., they conceived that the putrefaction of different bodies, aided by the influence of the sun, might generate life. This has usually been termed *equivocal* or *spontaneous generation*, (*generatio heterogenea, æquivoca, primitiva, primigena, originaria, spontanea*.) By some, however, *spontaneous generation* is made to include the production of living beings from the mere combination of inorganic elements; whilst by *equivocal generation* is meant their evolution from organized beings dissimilar to themselves, through any irregularity in their functions, or through the incipient decay or degeneration of their tissues.<sup>a</sup>

The doctrine of spontaneous generation is supposed to have been devised by the Egyptians to account for the swarms of frogs and flies, which appeared on the banks of the Nile after its periodical inundations.<sup>b</sup> Amongst the ancients, the latter hypothesis was almost universally credited. Pliny unhesitatingly expresses his belief, that the rat and the frog are produced in this manner; and at his time it was generally thought, that the bee, for example, was derived, at times from a parent, but at others from putrid beef.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Carpenter, Principles of General and Comparative Physiology, 2d edit., p. 445, London, 1841.

<sup>b</sup> Fleming's Philosophy of Zoology, i. 24, Edinb. 1822; Burdach, Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, 2te Auflage, i. 8, Leipz. 1835; and Purkinje, in art. Erzeugung, Encyclop. Wörterbuch, u. s. w., xi. 512, Berlin, 1834.

<sup>c</sup> "Apes nascuntur partim ex apibus, partim ex bubulo corpore putrefacto."—Varro. De Re Rusticâ, iii. 16. See, also, Plinii Hist. Natural.

The passage of Virgil<sup>a</sup>—in which he describes how the shepherd Aristæus succeeded in producing swarms of bees from the entrails of a steer, exposed for nine days to putrefaction—is probably familiar to most readers, and exhibits the same belief.

The hypothesis of equivocal generation having been conceived, in consequence of the impracticability of tracing ocularly the function in the minute tribes of animals, it naturally maintained its ground uninterruptedly, as regarded those animals, until better means of observation were invented. The difficulty, too, of admitting regular generation as applicable to all animals, was augmented by the fact, not at first known to naturalists, that many of the lower tribes conceal their eggs, in order that their nascent larvæ may find suitable food; but the existence of evident sexual organs in many of these small species induced physiologists, at an early period, to believe, that they also might be reproduced by sexual intercourse: direct proofs were not, however, obtained until the discovery of the microscope; after which the investigations of Redi, Vallisnieri, Swammerdam, Hooke, Réaumur, Bonnet, and others, clearly demonstrated that many of the smallest insects have eggs and sexes, and that they reproduce like other animals. In the case of plants, it has been supposed that the growth of the fungi amongst dung, and of the various parasitical plants that appear on putrid flesh, fruit, &c., furnishes facts in support of the equivocal theory; but the microscope exhibits the seeds of many of these plants, and experiments show that they are prolific. The characters, by which the different species and varieties are distinguished, although astonishingly minute, are fixed, exhibiting no fluctuation, such as might be anticipated did these plants arise by spontaneous generation, or by the fortuitous concurrence of atoms.

The animalcules, that make their appearance in water in which vegetable or animal substances have been infused or are contained, would seem, at first sight, to favour the ancient doctrine. In these cases, however, the species, again, have determinate characters; presenting always the same proportion of parts; and appearing to transmit their vitality to their descendants in a manner not unlike animals and vegetables higher in the scale. The explanation, offered by the supporters of the univocal theory for those obscure cases in which direct observation fails us, is that their seeds and eggs are so extremely minute, that they can be borne about by the winds, or by birds; be readily deposited, and, when they find a soil or nidus favourable to their growth, can undergo developement. Thus, the soil, in which alone the *monilia glauca* flourishes, is putrid fruit; whilst the small infusory animal—the *vibrio aceti* or vinegar eel—requires, for its growth, vinegar that has been for some time exposed to the air.<sup>b</sup> “That the atmosphere,” says Dr. Good,<sup>c</sup> “is freighted with myriads of insect eggs, that elude our senses; and that such eggs, when they meet with a proper bed, are hatched in a few hours into a perfect form, is clear to any one who has attended to the rapid and wonderful effects of what, in common language, is called a *blight*,

<sup>a</sup> Georgic. lib. iv. l. 295.

<sup>b</sup> Fleming, op. citât. p. 24.

<sup>c</sup> Study of Medicine, Cl. i. Ord. 1, Gen. x. Sç. 3.

upon plantations and gardens. I have seen, as probably many, who may read this work, have also, a hop-ground completely overrun and desolated by the *aphis humuli* or *hopgreen-louse*, within twelve hours after a *honey-dew* (which is a peculiar haze or mist, loaded with a poisonous miasm) has slowly swept through the plantation, and stimulated the leaves of the hop to the morbid secretion of a saccharine and viscid juice, which, while it destroys the young shoots by exhaustion, renders them a favourite resort for this insect, and a cherishing nidus for the myriads of little dots that are its eggs. The latter are hatched within eight-and-forty hours after their deposit, and succeeded by hosts of other eggs of the same kind; or, if the blight takes place in an early part of the autumn, by hosts of the young insects produced viviparously; for in different seasons of the year, the aphid breeds both ways. Now it is highly probable, that there are minute eggs or ovula of innumerable kinds of animalcules floating in myriads of myriads through the atmosphere, so diminutive as to bear no larger proportion to the eggs of the aphid than these bear to those of the wren, or the hedge-sparrow; protected, at the same time, from destruction by the filmy integument that surrounds them, till they can meet with a proper nest for their reception, and a proper stimulating power to quicken them into life; and which, with respect to many of them, are only found obvious to the senses in different descriptions of animal fluids. The same fact occurs in the mineral kingdom: stagnant water, though purified by distillation and confined in a marble basin, will, in a short time, become loaded on its surface or about its sides with various species of confervas; while the interior will be peopled with microscopic animalcules. So, while damp cellars are covered with boletuses, agarics and other funguses, the driest brick walls are often lined with the lichens and mosses. We see nothing of the animal and vegetable eggs or seeds by which all this is effected; but we know, that they exist in the atmosphere, and that this is the medium of their circulation."

Any difficulty that might exist in regard to the transmission of such minute bodies through the atmosphere is removed, when we reflect on the extreme diffusion of odours, and on the fact that particles of sand are transmitted for hundreds of miles from their original seat (see vol. i. p. 136). In some dust, which was collected on a vessel three hundred miles from the land, Mr. Darwin<sup>a</sup> was much surprised to find particles of stone above the thousandth of an inch square, mixed with finer matter.

The view of the extraneous origin of the seeds of the confervas, &c., is corroborated by an experiment of Senebier. He filled a bottle with distilled water, and corked it accurately; not an atom of green matter was produced, although it was exposed to the light of the sun for four years; nor did the green matter, considered as the first stage of spontaneous organization, exhibit itself in a glass of common water, covered with a stratum of oil.<sup>b</sup> It is proper, however, to remark,

<sup>a</sup> Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries visited during the Voyage of H. M. S. Beagle round the World. By C. Darwin, M. A., F. R. S., Amer. edit., p. 7, New York, 1846.

<sup>b</sup> See, also, Wrisberg, Observ. de Animal. Infusor.

that the observation of others invalidates the results of this experiment; and, moreover, it has been said, that if the fact be admitted, the exclusion of the air might have prevented some simple condition necessary for the aboriginal developement of life. Burdach,<sup>a</sup> assisted by Hensche, and along with Professor von Baer, poured water on marble in a glass vessel, the remainder of the vessel being filled with atmospheric air, oxygen or hydrogen, and placed it in the light of the sun, or in warm sand. No green matter was perceptible, but there was a slimy substance with white threads, part of which had a ramified appearance, and part that of coral. On the other hand, pieces of granite, newly broken from the midst of a block, produced—with fresh distilled water, and oxygen or hydrogen, in the sun—green matter, with threads of the confervas; but in the warmth of digestion flocculi only. He next took some mould, which he dug up, and which was inodorous, and apparently free from all foreign matter; boiled it in a considerable quantity of water, and reduced the decoction to the consistence of a thick, partly pulverulent extract. This gave, with common water and atmospheric air—in bottles with ground stoppers, tied over with bladder—in the sun, numerous infusory animalcules and green matter; but with distilled water and oxygen or hydrogen, green matter only appeared at the bottom of the bottles.

The subject of intestinal worms has been eagerly embraced by the supporters of the doctrine of equivocal generation, who are of opinion, that the germs need not be received from without; whilst the followers of the univocal doctrine maintain, that they must always be admitted into the system. The first opinion includes amongst its supporters the names of Needham,<sup>b</sup> Buffon, Patrin, Treviranus,<sup>c</sup> Rudolphi,<sup>d</sup> Bremser,<sup>e</sup> Himly, and other distinguished helminthologists. The latter comprises those who believe in the Harveian maxim,—*omne vivum ex ovo*.<sup>f</sup> To support the latter opinion, it has been attempted to show, that the worms, found in the human intestines, are precisely the same as others that have been found out of the body; but the evidence in favour of this position, is by no means strong or satisfactory. Linnæus affirms, that the *tænia vulgaris*,—of a smaller size, however,—has been met with in muddy springs; and the *ascarides vermiculares* in marshes, and in the putrescent roots of plants. Gadd affirms, that he met with the *tænia articulata plana osculis lateralibus geminis* in a chalybeate rivulet; Unzer, *tænia* in a well; and Tissot says, that he found *tænia*, exactly like the human, in a river; whilst Linnæus, Leeuwenhoek, Schæffer and others affirm, that they have found the *distoma hepaticum* in water; but O. F. Müller,—who took extraordinary pains in the comparative examination of the entozoa which infest the human body, and those that are met with in

<sup>a</sup> Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, 2te Auflage, i. 23, Leipz. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> An Account of some New Microscopical Discoveries, 8vo. Lond. 1745.

<sup>c</sup> Biologie, tom. ii. 264.

<sup>d</sup> Entozoorum sive Vermium Intestinalium Historia Naturalis, tom. i. p. 370.

<sup>e</sup> Ueber Lebende Würmer im Lebenden Menschen, Wien, 1819.

<sup>f</sup> See the author's Commentaries on the Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels of Children, p. 20, Lond. 1824.

springs,—states, that he has frequently detected the *planaria*, but never saw one like the *distoma hepaticum*.<sup>a</sup>

On the other hand, the supporters of the equivocal theory have laboured, with a good deal of success, to show, that a difference is always discoverable between the worms found without, and those found within, the body; but were it demonstrated to a mathematical certainty, that such difference exists, it would not be an invincible argument against the correctness of the univocal theory; as difference of locality, food, &c., might induce important changes in their corporeal development, and give occasion to the diversity which is occasionally perceptible amongst these parasites. Yet, if we admit that the germs of the entozoa are always received from without, their occurrence in different stages of development, in the foetus in utero, is a circumstance difficult of explanation. Small, indeed, must be the germ, which, when received into the digestive organs of the mother, can pass into her circulation, be transmitted into the vessels of the foetus, be deposited in some viscus, and there undergo its full development; yet such cases have occurred, if the theory be correct. Certain it is,—however the fact may be accounted for,—that worms have been found in the foetus, by individuals whose testimony cannot be doubted. Eschholz saw them in the egg of the hen. Fromann found the *distoma hepaticum* in the liver of the foetal lamb; Kerckring,<sup>b</sup> *ascarides lumbricoides* in the stomach of a foetus six and a half months old; Brendel, *tæniæ* in the human foetus in utero; Heim, *tæniæ* in the new-born infant; Blumenbach, *tæniæ* in the intestine of the new-born puppy; and Göze, Bloch, and Rudolphi, the same parasite in sucking lambs.<sup>c</sup>

Perhaps the conclusion of Cuvier<sup>d</sup> is most consistent with analogy,—that these parasites “propagate by germs so minute as to be capable of transmission through the narrowest passages; so that the germs may exist in the infant at birth.” We have seen, however, that not simply the germs, but the animals themselves have been found at this early period of existence. The scientific world was, at one time, astounded by the assertion of Mr. Crosse, that he had succeeded in forming infusory animalcules from solutions of granite, silex, &c., by the aid of galvanism. He was engaged in some experiments on crystallization, in which a powerful galvanic battery was made to act upon a saturated solution of silicate of potassa, when the insects made their appearance. He subsequently employed nitrate of copper—a poison to the mammalia,—and from it also the insects emerged. Some years afterwards, these experiments were repeated by Mr. Weekes, of Sandwich, England, and with the same results. Besides employing the silicate of potassa, Mr. Weekes tried ferrocyanuret of potassium, on account of its containing a larger proportion of carbon, a principal element of organized bodies; and from this the insects were produced in increased numbers. The insects pro-

<sup>a</sup> Rudolphi, op. citat.

<sup>b</sup> Spicilegium Anatom. Obs. lxxix. p. 154, Amstel. 1670.

<sup>c</sup> Stannius, art. Entozoa, in Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medic. Wissensch. xi. 276, Berlin, 1834; also, Grätzer, Die Krankheiten des Fœtus, p. 107, Breslau, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> Règne Animal, p. 27. See, also, Ehrenberg, in Nov. Act. Nat. Cur., tom. x.; and Müller's Physiology, Baly's translation, part i. p. 14. Lond. 1838.

duced by both experimenters appear to have been the same—a species of *acarus*, minute, semi-transparent, and furnished with long bristles, which can only be seen by the aid of the microscope. The only satisfactory mode of explaining the phenomenon—difficult of conception under any aspect—is, that organized matters, perhaps ova, were existent in the solutions, which became developed under the galvanic influence.

It has been plausibly argued, however, that the *Acarus Crossii* was a type of being ordained from the beginning, and destined to be realized under certain physical conditions. “When a human hand,” observes a recent ingenious and able writer,<sup>a</sup> “brought these conditions into the proper arrangement, it did an act akin to hundreds of familiar ones which we execute every day, and which are followed by natural results; but it did nothing more. The production of the insect, if it did take place as assumed, was as clearly an act of the Almighty himself, as if he had fashioned it with his hands. For the presumption, that an act of aboriginal creation did take place, there is this to be said, that, in Mr. Weekes’s experiments, every care that ingenuity could devise, was taken to exclude the possibility of a development of the insects from ova. The wood of the frame was baked in a powerful heat; a bell-shaped glass covered the apparatus, and from this the atmosphere was excluded by the constantly rising fumes from the liquid, for the emission of which there was an aperture so arranged at the top of the glass, that only these fumes could pass. The water was distilled and the substance of the silicate had been subjected to a white heat. Thus, every source of fallacy seemed to be shut off. In such circumstances, a candid mind, which sees no thing impious or unphilosophical in the idea of a new creation, will be disposed to think, that there is less difficulty in believing in such a creation having actually taken place, than in believing that in two instances, separated in time and place, exactly the same insects should have chanced to arise from concealed ova, and these a species heretofore unknown.”

During the last three years, we are informed,<sup>b</sup> Mr. Weekes has continued to subject solutions to electric agency, and invariably found insects produced in these substances, whilst they as invariably failed to appear where electric action was not employed, but every other condition was fulfilled. It is stated, however, in answer to these experiments, that specimens of the insects were sent to Paris, and were found to contain ova; and that other specimens sent to London were discovered not to be a new species, but one abundant in the country,—“the *acarus horridus*, which abounds in dirty shops, dusty shelves, and damp outhouses; and having a taste for pure physics, is especially abundant in all laboratories, and among the bottles of a chemist’s shop.”<sup>c</sup>

Another series of facts has been brought forward as deserving not less attention than those already adduced, and which would seem to show, that new species of animals may result from new circum-

<sup>a</sup> Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation, Amer. edit. p. 143. New York, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Sequel to Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation, p. 85. New York, 1846.

<sup>c</sup> Edinburgh Review, for July, 1845, Amer. edit. p. 38.

stances. The pig, in its domestic state, is subject to the attacks of a hydatid, from which the wild animal is free, and which constitute the "measles" in pork; and it is argued that as the domestication of the pig is comparatively a recent event, the hydatid must likewise be of recent origin. So, also, there is a tinea, which attacks dressed wool, but never touches it in its unwashed state. A particular insect disdains all food but chocolate, and the larva of the *oinopota cellaris* lives no where but in wine and beer—all articles manufactured by man.<sup>a</sup>

The whole matter is involved in insuperable difficulties; yet the univocal theory is, in all respects perhaps, most admissible as regards the whole of the living creation:<sup>b</sup> still there are many distinguished naturalists who conceive it probable, that spontaneous generation occurs in the lowest divisions of the living scale. Amongst these may be mentioned De Lamarck, Raspail, Burdach, Treviranus, Wrisberg, Schweigger, Gruithuisen, Von Baer,—and Adelon seems to accord with them. It has been properly remarked, however, by a writer<sup>c</sup> on this subject, who is himself inclined to admit the existence of spontaneous generation among some species of cryptogamic plants, infusorial animalcules, and entozoa, that "it must be held in recollection, that many of these productions, after their first origin, propagate their species as parents,—that the so-called spontaneous kind of generation is to be looked upon as no more than an exception to the general law of reproduction,—and that, therefore, extreme caution is necessary in admitting any organized body to be the product of spontaneous generation upon the mere negative evidence of the absence of its seed or ova."

The views of M. De Lamarck,<sup>d</sup> regarding the formation of living bodies, are strange in the extreme; and exhibit to us, what we so frequently witness, that, in order to get rid of a subject, which is difficult of comprehension, the philosopher will frequently adopt suppositions, that require a much greater stretch of the imagination to invent, and present stronger obstacles to belief, than those for which they have been substituted. De Lamarck maintains, that the first organized beings were formed throughout by a true spontaneous generation; their existence being owing to an excitative cause of life, probably furnished by the circumambient medium, and consisting of light and the electric fluid. When this cause meets with a substance of a gelatinous consistence, dense enough to retain fluids, it organizes the substance into cellular tissue, and a living being results. This process, according to De Lamarck, is occurring daily at the extremity of the vegetable and animal kingdoms. The being, thus formed, manifested originally, according to him, three faculties of life;—nutrition, growth, and reproduction,—but only in the most simple manner. The organization soon, however, became more complicated, for it is, he remarks, a property of the vital movement to tend always

<sup>a</sup> *Vestiges*, &c., p. 139.

<sup>b</sup> Fletcher's *Rudiments of Physiology*, part ii. a, p. 13, Edinb. 1836; and Hodgkin's *Lect. on the Morbid Anat. of the Serous and Mucous Membranes*, p. 218. Lond. 1836.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Allen Thomson, in art. *Circulation*, *Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology*, part xiii. p. 432. Feb. 1838.

<sup>d</sup> *Philosophie Zoologique*, vol. i. Paris, 1830.



to a greater degree of developement of organization, to create particular organs, and to divide and multiply the different centres of activity; and, as reproduction has constantly preserved all that had been acquired, numerous and diversified species have been, in this manner, formed, possessing more and more extensive faculties. So that, according to this system, nature was directly concerned only in the first draughts of life; participating indirectly in the existence of living bodies of a more complex character; and these last proceeded from the former, after a lapse of an enormous time, and an infinity of changes in the incessantly increasing complication of organization;—reproduction continuing to preserve all the acquired modifications and improvements.

The simplest kind of generation does not require sexual organs. The animal, at a certain period of existence, separates into several fragments, which form so many new individuals. This is called *fissionary generation* or *generation by spontaneous division*. We have examples of it in the infusory animalcules,—as the vinegar eel or *vibrio aceti*. A somewhat more elevated kind of reproduction is the *gemmaiparous*,—common in the vegetable kingdom,—which consists in the formation of buds, sporules, or *germs* on some part of the body. These, at a particular period, drop off, and form as many new individuals, and according as the germs are developed at the surface of the body, or internally, the gemmiparous generation is said to be *external*, or *internal*. In these two varieties, the whole function is executed by a single individual.

Higher up in the scale, we find special organs for the accomplishment of generation—*male* and *female*. In those animals, however, that possess special reproductive organs, some have both sexes in the same individual, or are *hermaphrodite* or *androgynous*, as is the case with almost all plants, and with some of the lower tribes of animals. In these, again, we notice a difference. Some are capable of reproduction without the concurrence of a second individual; others, although possessing both attributes, require the concurrence of another; the male parts of the one uniting with the female parts of the other. Both, in this way, become impregnated. The *helix hortensis* or *garden snail* affords us an instance of this kind of reproduction. They meet in pairs, according to Shaw,\* and, stationing themselves an inch or two apart, launch several small darts, not quite half an inch long, at each other. These are of a horny substance, and sharply pointed at one end. The animals, during the breeding season, are provided with a little reservoir for them, situate within the neck, and opening on the right side. On the discharge of the first dart, the wounded snail immediately retaliates on its aggressor, by throwing a similar dart; the other renews the battle, and in turn is wounded. When the darts are expended, the war of love is completed, and its consummation succeeds.

In the superior animals, each sexual characteristic is possessed by a separate individual,—the species being composed of two individuals,

\* Zoology, or Systematic Natural History, Lond., 1800; Dr. Good, in *Physiol. Proem* to class v. *Genetica*; and Purkinje, *op. citat.*, xii. 521.

male and female, and the concourse of these individuals, or of matters proceeding from them, being absolutely necessary for reproduction. But here, again, two great differences are met with in the process. Sometimes the fecundating fluid of the male sex is not applied to the ovum of the female, until after its ejection by the latter, as in fishes. In other cases, the ovum cannot be fecundated after its ejection, and the fluid of the male sex is applied to it whilst still within the female, as in birds and the mammalia. In such case, the male individual is furnished with an organ for penetrating the parts of the female, and, in this kind of generation, there must be *copulation*. Again, where there is copulation, the following varieties may exist. *First*. The ovum, when once fecundated, may be immediately laid by the female, and may be hatched out of the body, constituting *oviparous generation*. *Secondly*. Although the process of laying may commence immediately, the fecundated ovum may pass so slowly through the excretory passages, that it may be hatched there, and the new individual may issue from the womb of the parent possessing the proper formation. This constitutes *ovo-viviparous generation*, of which we have examples in the viper and salamander. *Thirdly*. The fecundated ovum may be detached from the ovary soon after copulation, but, in place of being ejected, it may be deposited in a reservoir, termed a *womb* or *uterus*; be fixed there, attract fluids from the organ adapted for its developement, and thus, increasing at the expense of the mother, be hatched, as it were, in this reservoir, so that the new individual may be born under its appropriate form. In such case, moreover, the new being, after birth, may be for a time supported on a secretion of the mother—the milk. These circumstances constitute *viviparous generation*; in which there are copulation, fecundation, gestation or pregnancy, and lactation or suckling. *Lastly*. There are animals, which, like the kangaroo, opossum, and wombat, are provided with abdominal pouches, into which the young, born at a very early stage of developement, are received, and nourished with milk secreted from the glands, contained within these pouches. Such animals are termed *marsupial* or *marsupiate*.\*

There is considerable difference in animals as regards the nurturing care afforded by the parents to the young. Amongst the oviparous animals, many are satisfied with instinctively depositing their ova in situations and under circumstances favourable to their hatching, and then abandoning them, so that they can never know their progeny. This is the case with insects. Others, again, as birds, subject their ova to incubation, and, after they have been hatched, administer nourishment to their young during the early period of existence. In the viviparous animal, these cares are still more extensive; the mother drawing from her own bosom the nutriment needed by the infant, or *suckling* it.

There are yet other varieties in the generation of animals. In some, it can be performed but once during the life of the individual; in others, we know it can be effected repeatedly. Sometimes one copulation fecundates but a single individual; at others, several gene-

\* Virey, Philosophie d'Histoire Naturelle, p. 475, Paris, 1835.

rations are fecundated. A familiar example of this fecundity occurs in the common fowl, in which a single access will be sufficient to fecundate the eggs for the season. In the insect tribe, this is still more strikingly exemplified. In the *aphis puceron* or *green plant louse*, through all its divisions, and in the *monoculus pulex*, according to naturalists, a single impregnation suffices for at least six or seven generations. There is, in this case, another strange deviation from the ordinary laws of propagation, viz., that, in the warm summer months, the young are produced viviparously, and, in the cooler autumnal months, oviparously. A single impregnation of the queen bee will serve to fecundate all the eggs she may lay for two years at least—Huber<sup>a</sup> believes for the whole of her life, but he has had numerous proofs of the former. She begins to lay her eggs forty-six hours after impregnation, and will commonly lay about three thousand in two months, or at the rate of fifty eggs daily.

Lastly, the young are sometimes born with the shape which they have always to maintain; at others, under forms which are subsequently modified materially, as in the *papilio* or *butterfly* genus.

Reproduction in the human species requires the concurrence of both sexes; these sexes being separate, and each possessed by a distinct individual—*male* and *female*. All the acts comprising it may be referred to five great heads. 1. *Copulation*, the object of which is to apply the fecundating principle, furnished by the male, to the germ of the female. 2. *Conception* or *fecundation*, the prolific result of copulation. 3. *Gestation* or *pregnancy*, comprising the sojourn of the fecundated ovum in the uterus, and the developement it undergoes there. 4. *Delivery* or *accouchement*, which consists in the detachment of the ovum; its excretion and the birth of the new individual: and lastly, *lactation*, or the nourishing of the infant on the maternal milk.<sup>b</sup>

#### 1. GENERATIVE APPARATUS.

The part, taken by the two sexes in the process of generation, is not equally extensive. Man has merely to furnish the fluid necessary for effecting fecundation, and to convey it within the female. He, consequently, participates only in copulation and fecundation; whilst, in addition, the acts of gestation and lactation are accomplished by the female. Her generative apparatus is therefore more complicated, and consists of a greater number of organs.

##### a. Genital Organs of the Male.

The generative apparatus of the male comprises two orders of parts:—those which secrete and preserve the fecundating fluid, and

<sup>a</sup> Nouvelles Observations sur les Abeilles, Paris, 1814; or English translation; also Good, op. citat.

<sup>b</sup> See, on the various kinds of generation, Burdach, op. citat. p. 40; Roget's Animal and Vegetable Physiology, Amer. edit. p. 409, Philad. 1834; Prof. T. Rymer Jones, art. Organs of Generation, in Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., Part xiii. p. 406, Lond. Feb. 1838; Dr. Allen Thomson, art. Generation, ibid., p. 433; Carpenter, Principles of General and Comparative Physiology, 2d edit. Lond. 1841; and Müller, Elements of Physiology, by W. Baly, p. 1430. Lond. 1842.

those which accomplish copulation. The first consists of two similar glands—the *testes*—which secrete the *sperm* or fecundating fluid from the blood. 2. The excretory ducts of those glands—the *vasa deferentia*. 3. The *vesiculæ seminales*, which communicate with the *vasa deferentia* and urethra; and 4. Two canals, called *ejaculatory*, which convey the sperm from the *vesiculæ seminales* into the canal of the urethra, whence it is afterwards projected externally. The second consists of the *penis*, an organ essentially composed of erectile tissues, and capable of acquiring considerable rigidity. These parts will require a more detailed notice.

*Testes*.—The testicles are two glands situate in a bag suspended beneath the pubes, called the *scrotum*; the right being a little higher than the left. They are of an ovoid shape, compressed laterally, their size being usually that of a pigeon's egg, and their weight about seven and a half or eight drachms:—Sir A. Cooper<sup>a</sup> says about an ounce, and Mr. Curling<sup>b</sup> six drachms. The left testis is generally larger than the right. Like other glands, they receive arterial blood by an appropriate vessel, which communicates with the excretory duct. The *spermatic artery* conveys the blood, from which the secretion has to be operated, to the testicle. It arises from the abdominal aorta at a very acute angle, is small, extremely tortuous, and passes down to the abdominal ring, through which it proceeds to the testicle. When it reaches this organ, it divides into two sets of branches, some of which are distributed to the epididymis, and others enter the testicle at its upper margin, and assist in constituting its tissue. The excretory ducts form, in the testicle, what are called the *seminiferous vessels* or *tubuli seminiferi*. These terminate in a white cord or nucleus—situate at the upper and inner part of the organ, where the excretory duct commences—which is called the *corpus Highmorianum* or *sinus of the seminiferous vessels*. Besides these anatomical elements of the testes, there are also—1. Veins, termed *spermatic*, which return the superfluous blood back to the heart. These arise in the very tissue of the organ, and form the *spermatic plexus*, the divisions of which collect in several branches, that pass through the abdominal ring, and unite into a single trunk, which subsequently divides again into another plexus, termed *corpus pampiniforme*. This has been described as peculiar to the human species, and as a diverticulum for the blood of the testicle, whose functions are intermittent. These veins ultimately terminate on the right side in the vena cava, and on the left in the renal vein. 2. Lymphatic vessels, in considerable number, the trunks of which, after having passed through the abdominal ring, open into the lumbar glands. 3. Nerves, partly furnished by the renal and mesenteric plexuses and by the great sympathetic, partly by the lumbar nerves, and which are so minute as not to be traceable as far as the tissue of the testicle. 4. An outer membrane or envelope to the whole organ, called *tunica albuginea* or *peritestis*. This is of an opaque white colour, of an

<sup>a</sup> Observations on the Structure and Diseases of the Testis, Amer. edit. p. 25. Philad. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Testis, &c., p. 9. Lond. 1843.

evidently fibrous and close texture; it envelopes and gives shape to the organ, and sends into the interior of the testicle numerous filiform, flattened prolongations, which constitute incomplete septa or partitions. These form triangular spaces, filled with seminiferous vessels, which pass, with considerable regularity, towards the superior margin and the corpus Highmorianum.

These elements, united, constitute the testicle, the substance of which is soft, of a yellowish-gray colour, and divided by prolongations of the tunica albuginea, and the tunica vasculosa of Sir A. Cooper, into a number of lobes and lobules. It seems to be formed of an immensity of very delicate, tortuous filaments, interlaced and convoluted in all directions, loosely united, between which are ramifications of the spermatic arteries and veins.

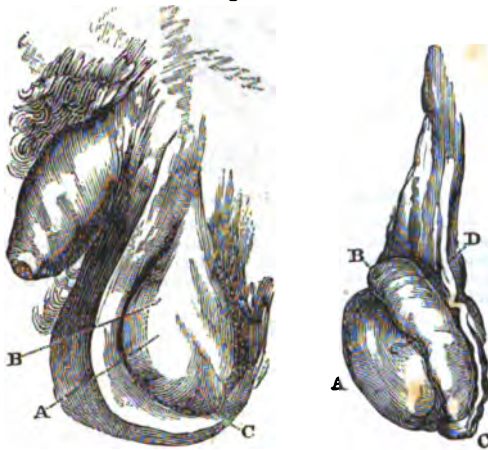
Fig. 276.



Transverse Section of Testis.

1. Cavity of tunica vaginalis; the most external layer is tunica vaginalis reflexa; and that in contact with the organ, tunica vaginalis propria. 2. Tunica albuginea. 3. Mediastinum testis, giving off numerous fibrous cords in a radiated direction to internal surface of tunica albuginea. The cut extremities of vessels below the number belong to the rete testis; and those above to arteries and veins of the organ. 4. Tunica vasculosa, or pia mater testis. 5. One of the lobules, consisting of convolutions of tubuli seminiferi, and terminating by a single duct—the vas rectum. Corresponding lobules are seen between other fibrous cords of mediastinum. 6. Section of epididymis.—(Wilson.)

Fig. 277.



Male Organs.

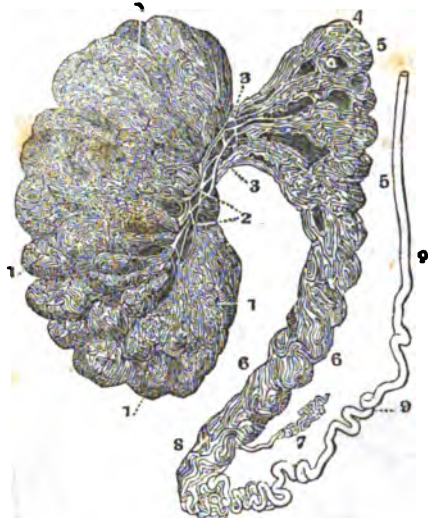
Left Hand Fig. Testicle covered by its membranes, and seeming like one body. Right Hand Fig. Testicle freed from its outer coat. A. Body of testicle. B. Commencement of epididymis, or globus major. C. Small head, or globus minor. D. Vas deferens.—(Sir C. Bell.)

According to Monro, secundus,\* the seminiferous tubes of the testicle do not exceed the  $\frac{1}{100}$ th part of an inch in diameter, and when filled with mercury, the  $\frac{1}{100}$ th part of an inch. He calculated, that the testis consists of 62,500 tubes, supposing each to be one inch long; and that, if the tubes were united, they would be 5208 feet and four inches long. Lauth estimates their length at 1750 feet, and Krause at 1015. The tubuli seminiferi finally terminate in straight tubes, called *vasa recta*, which unite near the centre of the testis, in a complicated arrangement, bearing the name *rete testis* or *rete vasculosum testis*: from this from

\* Elements of the Anat. of the Human Body, by Monro, tertius, ii. 179, Edinb. 1825.

12 to 18 ducts proceed upwards and backwards to penetrate the corpus

Fig. 278.



Human Testis injected with Mercury.

1. 1. Lobules formed of seminiferous tubes. 2. Rete testis. 3. Vasa efferentia. 4. Plexuses of efferent vessels passing into the head of the epididymis 5 5. 6. Body of epididymis. 7. Its appendix. 8. Its tail or cauda. 9. Vas deferens.—(Lauth.)

Fig. 279.



Plan of the Structure of the Testis and Epididymis.

a, a. Tubuli seminiferi. a\*, a\*. Their anastomoses. b. Rete testis. c. Vasa efferentia. d, d. Plexus of efferent vessels passing into the head of the epididymis. e, e, f. Body of epididymis. g. Its appendix. h. Its tail or cauda. i, i. Vas deferens.—(Lauth.)

Highmorianum and the tunica albuginea. These ducts are called *vasa efferentia*. Each of them is afterwards convoluted upon itself, so as to form a conical body, called *conus vasculosus*, having its base backwards; and at its base, the tube of each cone enters the tube of which the epididymis is formed. The epididymis is the prismatic arch, B, C, Fig. 277, which rests vertically on the back of the testicle, and adheres to it by the reflection of the tunica vaginalis, so as to appear a distinct part from the body of the testis. It is enlarged at both ends; the upper enlargement being formed by the *coni vasculosi*, and called the *globus major*; the lower called the *globus minor*. The epididymis is formed by a single convoluted tube, the fourth of a line in diameter. When the tube attains the lower end of the *globus minor*, it becomes less convoluted, enlarges, turns upwards, and obtains the name *vas deferens*.

Into the angle, made by the epididymis where it terminates in the *vas deferens*, is poured the secretion of the appendix or *vasculum aberrans*, which closely resembles a single lobule in structure. Its use is unknown.

The marginal figures exhibit the arrangement of the testis and its ducts.

The testes of most ani-

mals, that procreate but once a year, are comparatively small during the months when they are not excited. In man, the organ before birth, or rather during the greatest part of gestation, is an abdominal viscus; but, about the seventh month of foetal existence, it gradually descends through the abdominal ring into the scrotum, which it reaches in the eighth month, by a mechanism to be described hereafter. In some cases it never descends, but remains in the cavity of the abdomen, giving rise to considerable mental distress in many instances, and exciting the idea, that there may be a total absence of the organs, or that if they exist they cannot effect the work of reproduction. The uneasiness is needless, provided there be other evidences of virility,—the descent appearing to be by no means essential. It has been sufficiently demonstrated, that individuals, so circumstanced, are capable of procreation. In many animals, the testicles are always internal; whilst, in some, they appear only in the scrotum during the season of amorous excitement. Fodéré has indeed asserted, that the *cryptorchides* or *testicondi* or those whose testes have not descended, are occasionally remarked for the possession of unusual prolific powers and sexual vigour.<sup>a</sup>

Dr. Marshall states, that in the examination of 10,800 recruits he found 5 in whom the right, and 6 in whom the left testicle was not apparent. He met with but one instance in which both testicles had not appeared.<sup>b</sup>

It appears, that there is a set of barbarians at the back of the Cape of Good Hope, who are generally possessed of but one testicle, or are *monorchides*; and Linnæus, under the belief, that this is a natural defect, has made them a distinct variety of the human species. Mr. Barrow has noticed the same singularity; but Dr. Good<sup>c</sup> thinks it doubtful, whether, like the want of beard amongst the American savages, the destitution may not be owing to a barbarous custom of extirpation in early life. The deviation is not, however, more singular than the unusual formation of the nates and of the genital organs of the female in certain people of those regions, to which we shall have to refer. The possession of a single testicle appears to be sufficient for procreation. Occasionally three testicles exist.<sup>d</sup>

At times, the organs are extremely small, but capable of executing all their functions. Mr. Wilson<sup>e</sup> was consulted by a gentleman, on the point of marriage, respecting the propriety of his entering into that state, whose penis and testicles very little exceeded in size those of a youth of eight years of age. He was twenty-six years old, but had never experienced sexual desire until he became acquainted with the lady whom he proposed to make his wife; after which he had

<sup>a</sup> "Ces organes paraissent tirer du bain chaud ou ils se trouvent plongés plus d'aptitude à la sécrétion que lorsqu'ils sont descendus au dehors dans leurs enveloppes ordinaires!"—*Traité de Médecine Légale*, i. 370, Paris, 1813.

<sup>b</sup> Hints to Young Medical Officers in the Army, p. 83.

<sup>c</sup> Physiological Proem to class Genetica, Study of Medicine, vol. iv.

<sup>d</sup> See a case of this kind by Dr. F. Macann, in *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Jan. 1843; and others, referred to in Curling, *Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Testis*, &c., p. 50, London, 1843, or Amer. edit., Philad. 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Lectures on the Structure and Physiology of the Male Urinary and Genital Organs, &c., London, 1821.

repeated erections, with nocturnal emissions. He married; became the father of a family; and when he was twenty-eight years old, the organs had increased to the usual size of those of the adult.

In certain cases, the testes are drawn up against the abdominal ring so as to encourage the idea, that there are no testes in the scrotum. Professor Gross<sup>a</sup> has given the cases of two boys, one fourteen, the other eleven years of age, who were said to have been castrated, and a medical practitioner deposed to the absence of the testes; which, however, were found to be situate in the groin, a little below the external ring, whence, by a little traction, they could be easily forced down into the scrotum.

The testicle is connected with the abdominal ring by means of the *spermatic cord*, a fasciculus of about half an inch in diameter, which can be readily felt through the skin of the scrotum. It is formed, essentially of the vessels and nerves that pass to or from the testicles;—the spermatic artery, spermatic veins, lymphatics, and nerves of the organ, and the vas deferens, or excretory duct. These are bound together by means of cellular tissue; and, externally, a membranous sheath of a fibrous character envelopes the cord, and keeps it distinct from the surrounding parts, and especially from the scrotum. When the cord has passed through the abdominal ring, its various elements are no longer held together, but each passes to its particular destination.

The *scrotum* or *purse* is a continuation of the skin of the inner side of the thighs, the perineum, and the penis. It is symmetrical, the two halves being separated by a median line or *raphe*. The skin is of a darker colour here than elsewhere; is rugous, studded with follicles, and sparingly furnished with hair. This may be considered its outermost coat. Beneath this is the *dartos*,—a reddish, cellular membrane, which forms a distinct sac for each testicle; and a *septum*—the *septum scroti*—between them. Much discussion has taken place regarding the nature of the dartos; some supposing it to be muscular, others cellular. Breschet and Lobstein affirm, that it does not exist in the scrotum before the descent of the testes, and they consider it to be formed by the expansion of the gubernaculum testis. Meckel, however, suggests, that it constitutes the transition between the cellular and muscular tissues, and that there exists between it and other muscles the same relation that there is between the muscles of the superior and inferior animals. It consists of long fibres considerably matted together, and passing in every direction, but which are easily separable by distension with air or water, and by slight maceration. The generality of anatomists conceive it to be of a cellular character,<sup>b</sup> yet it is manifestly contractile, corrugates the scrotum, and probably consists of a muscular tissue also: Professor Horner,<sup>c</sup> indeed, affirms, that he dissected a subject in January, 1830, in which the fibres were evidently muscular, although interwoven. Beneath the dartos a third

<sup>a</sup> Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery, May, 1841, p. 355.

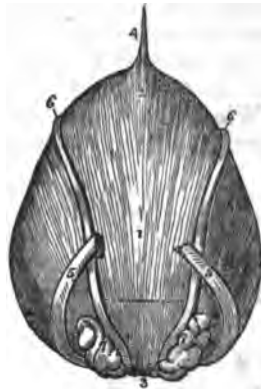
<sup>b</sup> Meckel's Handbuch, u. s. w., or Jourdan's French translation, iii. 622, Paris, 1825, and Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 382, Braunschweig, 1832.

<sup>c</sup> Special Anat. and Histology, 6th edit., Philad. 1843; and Lessons on Practical Anatomy, 3d edit. p. 273, Philad. 1836.



coat exists, which is muscular:—it is called the *cremaster* or *tunica erythroïdes*. It arises from the lesser oblique muscle of the abdomen, passes through the abdominal ring, aids in the formation of the spermatic cord, and terminates insensibly on the inner surface of the scrotum. It draws the testicle upwards. The cellular substance, that connects the dartos and cremaster with the tunica vaginalis, has been considered by some as an additional coat, and termed *tunica vaginalis communis*. The *tunica vaginalis* or *tunica elytröides* is a true serous membrane, enveloping the testicle and lining the scrotum; having, consequently a scrotal and a testicular portion. We shall see, hereafter, that it is a dependence of the peritoneum, passing before the testicle in its descent, and afterwards becoming separated from any direct communication with the abdomen. The *vas deferens* or excretory duct of the testicle commences at the globus minor of the epididymis, (C, Fig. 277,) which is itself, we have seen, formed of a convoluted tube. This, when unfolded, according to Monro, measures as much as thirty-two feet. As soon as the *vas deferens* quits the testicle, it joins the spermatic cord, passes upwards to the abdominal ring, separates from the blood-vessels on entering the abdomen, and descends downwards and inwards to the posterior and inferior part of the bladder, passing between the *bas-fond* of the latter and the ureter. It then converges towards its fellow along the under extremity of the bladder, at the inner margin of the vesicula seminalis of the same side, and ultimately opens into the urethra near the neck of the bladder. (Fig. 273 and Fig. 280.) At the base of the prostate, it receives a canal from the vesicula, and continues its course to the urethra under the name of *ejaculatory duct*. The *vas deferens* has two coats, the outermost of which is very firm and almost cartilaginous; but its structure is not manifest. The inner coat is thin, and belongs to the class of mucous membranes. The *vesiculæ seminales*, 19,

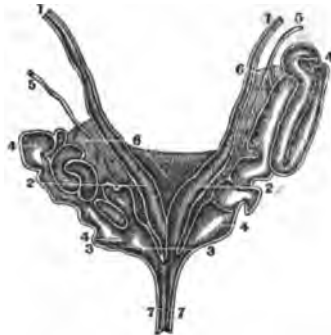
Fig. 280.



Posterior View of Male Bladder.

1. Body of bladder. 2. Fundus. 3. Inferior fundus or base. 4. Urachus. 5, 5'. Ureters. 6, 6'. Vasa deferentia. 7, 7'. Vesiculæ seminales. Triangular area, corresponding with trigonum vesicæ through which the bladder would be pierced, in puncturing it through the rectum. The dotted line forming base of this triangular area, marks extent of recto-vesical fold of peritoneum.—(Wilson.)

Fig. 281.

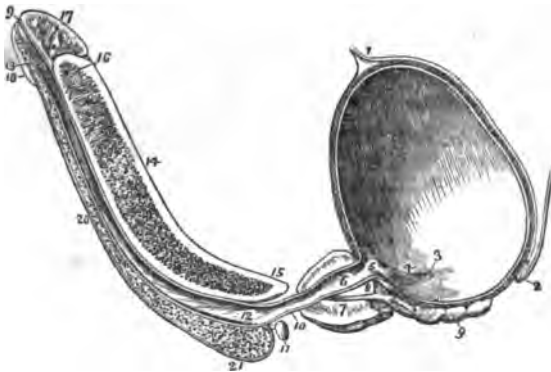


Vertical Section of the Union of Vas Deferens and Vesiculæ Seminales so as to show their Cavities.

1, 1'. Vas deferens with thick parietes and narrow cavity. 2, 2'. Portion of the same where the cavity is enlarged. 3, 3'. Extremities of vas deferens from each side where they join the vesiculæ seminales and ductus ejaculatorius. 4, 4'. Vesiculæ seminales distended with air and dried. 5, 5'. Arteries to the vesicula. 6. Portion of the peritoneum covering the posterior part of the vesicula. 7. Ejaculatory ducts.

Fig. 273, and Fig. 261, 4, 4, are considered to be two convoluted tubes,—one on each side,—which are two inches or two inches and a half long, and six or seven lines broad at the fundus, and are situate at the lower fundus of the bladder, between it and the rectum and behind the prostate gland. At the anterior extremities they approach each other very closely, being separated only by the vasa deferentia. When inflated and dried, they present the appearance of cells; but are generally conceived to be tubes, which, being convoluted, are

Fig. 282.



*Section of Bladder, Prostate, and Penis.*

1. Urachus attached to upper part of fundus of bladder. 2. Recto-vesical fold of peritoneum, at its point of reflection from base of bladder upon anterior surface of rectum. 3. Opening of right ureter. 4. A slight ridge, formed by muscle of ureter, and extending from termination of ureter to commencement of urethra. This ridge forms lateral boundary of trigonum vesicæ. 5. Commencement of urethra; the elevation of mucous membrane immediately behind figure is uvula vesicæ. Constriction of bladder at this point is neck of bladder. 6. Prostatic portion of urethra. 7. Prostate gland; difference of thickness of gland, above and below urethra, is shown. 8. Isthmus, or third lobe of prostate; immediately beneath which ejaculatory duct is seen passing. 9. Right vesicula seminalis; vas deferens is seen to be cut short off, close to its junction with ejaculatory duct. 10. Membranous portion of urethra. 11. Cowper's gland of right side, with its duct. 12. Bulbous portion of urethra: throughout whole length of urethra of corpus spongiosum, numerous lacunæ are seen. 13. Fossa navicularis. 14. Corpus cavernosum, cut somewhat obliquely to right side, near its lower part. Character of venous-cellular texture is shown. 15. Right crus penis. 16. Near upper part of corpus cavernosum, section has fallen a little to left of middle line; a portion of septum pectiniforme is consequently seen. This figure also indicates thickness of fibrous investment of corpus cavernosum, and its abrupt termination at base of (17) glans penis. 18. Lower segment of glans. 19. Meatus urinarius. 20. Corpus spongiosum. 21. Bulb of corpus spongiosum.—(Wilson.)

*ejaculatorius.* The vesiculæ are formed of two membranes; the more external like that of the vas deferens, and capable of contracting in the act of ejaculation; and an internal lining, of a white, delicate character, a little like that which lines the interior of the gall-bladder, and supposed to be mucous. Although the vesiculæ are manifestly contractile, no muscular fibres have been detected in them.

\* Magendie's Précis, &c., ii. 514.

brought within the compass of the vesiculæ. When dissected and stretched out, they are four or five inches long by about one-fourth of an inch in diameter. Amussat,\* however, denies this arrangement of the vesiculæ: he affirms, that he has discovered them to be formed of a minute canal of considerable length, variously convoluted, the folds of which are united to each other by cellular filaments, like those of the spermatic vessels. At the anterior part, termed the *neck*, a short canal passes off, which unites at an acute angle with the vas deferens, to form the *ductus*

They are found filled, in the dead body, with an opaque, thick, yellowish fluid, very different, in appearance, from the sperm ejaculated during life.

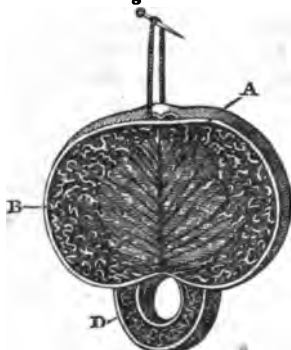
The *prostate gland*, (Fig. 273 and Fig. 282,) is an organ of very dense tissue, embracing the neck of the bladder, and penetrated by the urethra, which traverses it much nearer its upper than its lower surface. The base is directed backwards, the point forwards, and its inferior surface rests upon the rectum, so that, by passing the finger into the rectum, enlargements of the organ may be detected. The prostate was once universally esteemed glandular, and it is still so termed. It is, now, generally and correctly regarded as an agglomeration of several small follicles, filled by a viscid whitish fluid. These follicles have numerous minute excretory ducts, which open on each side of the *caput gallinaginis*.

The *glands of Cowper* are two small, oblong bodies; of the size of a pea; of a reddish colour, and of a somewhat firm tissue. They are situate anterior to the prostate, parallel to each other, and at the sides of the urethra. Each has an excretory duct, which creeps obliquely in the spongy tissue of the bulb, and opens before the *verumontanum*.

The *male organ* or *penis* consists of the *corpora cavernosa* and *corpus spongiosum*; parts essentially formed of an erectile tissue, and surrounded by a very firm elastic covering, which prevents over-distension, and gives form to the organ. The *corpora cavernosa* constitute the great body of the penis. They are two tubes which are united and separated by an imperfect partition. Within them a kind of cellular tissue exists, into which blood is poured, so as to cause erection. The posterior extremities of these cavernous tubes are called *crura penis*. These separate in the perineum, each taking hold of the ramus of the pubis; and, at the other extremity, the cavernous bodies terminate in rounded points under the *glans penis*. The anatomical elements of the internal tissue of the *corpora cavernosa* are,—the ramifications of the *cavernous artery*, which proceeds from the internal pudic; those of a vein bearing the same name; and probably, nerves, although they have not been traced so far. All these elements are supported by filamentous prolongations from the outer dense envelope. A difference of opinion prevails amongst anatomists with regard to the precise arrangement of these prolongations. Some consider them to form cells, or a kind of spongy structure, on the plates of which the ramifications of the cavernous artery and vein and of the nerves terminate, and into which the blood is extravasated. Others conceive, that the internal arrangement consists of a plexus of minute arteries and veins, supported by the plates of the outer membrane, interlacing like the capillary vessels, but with this addition, that in place of the minute veins becoming capillary in the plexus, they are of greater size, forming very extensible dilatations and networks, and anastomosing freely with each other. If the cavernous artery be injected, the matter first fills the ramifications of the artery, then the venous plexuses of the cavernous bodies, and it ultimately returns by the cavernous vein, having produced erection. The same

effect is caused still more readily by injecting the cavernous vein. J. Müller, who has investigated the structure of the male organ, has discovered two sets of arteries in the organ, differing from each other

Fig. 283.



Section of the Penis.

A. External membrane or sheath of penis. B. Corpus cavernosum. D. Corpus spongiosum urethrae.

in size, mode of termination, and uses: the first he calls *rami nutritii*, which are distributed upon the parietes of the veins and throughout the spongy substance, differing in no respect from the nutritive arteries of other parts. The second set he calls *arteria helicinae*. They differ from the nutritive vessels in form, size, and distribution. They are short, and are given off from the larger branches as well as from the finest twigs of the artery; most of them come off at a right angle, and project into the cavity of the spongy substance, either terminating abruptly or swelling out into a clublike process without again subdividing. Almost all these arteries have this character, that they are bent like a horn, so that the end describes half a circle

or somewhat more. These arteries have a great resemblance to the

Fig. 284.



Glans Penis Injected.

1. 1. Portions of corpora cavernosa. 2. Prepuce turned back. 3. Its frenum. 4. 4. Glandulae odoriferae Tysoni. 5. Point of glans. 6. Prominences of glans on each side of frenum. 7. Furrow which separates the sides of the glans. 8. Corona glandis.

tendrils of the vine, whence their name—*arteria helicinae*. A minute examination of them, either with the lens or with the microscope, shows, that, although they at all times project into the venous cavities of the corpora cavernosa, they are not entirely naked, but are covered with a delicate membrane, which under the microscope appears granular.<sup>a</sup> The views of Müller are embraced by Krause and Hyrtl,<sup>b</sup> but the researches of Valentin<sup>c</sup> are not in accordance with them. The result of numerous examinations has convinced him, that the helicine arteries are not peculiar vessels, but merely minute arteries that have been divided or torn, and that the real distribution of the vessels of the corpora cavernosa follows in every respect the most simple laws. The investigations of Müller have led him to infer, that, both in man and the horse, the nerves of the corpora cavernosa are

made up of branches proceeding from the organic as well as the animal system, whilst the nerves of animal life alone provide the nerves of sensation of the penis.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> For a farther description of these vessels, see J. Müller, art. *Erectiles Gewebe*, *Encycl. Wörterbuch der Medic. Wissensch.* xi. 452, Berlin, 1834; *Handbuch der Physiologie*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, Lond. 1838; and *Abhandlungen der Königlich. Akademie der Wissenschaft. zu Berlin*, s. 93, Berlin, 1837; also, Dr. Hart, in art. *Erectile Tissue*, in *Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol.* Part x., p. 146, Lond., June, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Mandl, *Manuel d'Anatomie Générale*, p. 197, Paris, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Müller's *Archiv. für Anatomie*, u. s. w., cited in *Lond. Med. Gazette*, June 23, 1838, p. 543; and Henle, *Allgemein. Anatom.* s. 485, Leipz. 1841.

<sup>d</sup> *Lond. Med. Gazette*, April 23d, 1836, and *Abhandlung*, u. s. w., s. 117.

Attached to the corpora cavernosa, and running in the groove beneath them, is a spongy body of similar structure,—the *corpus spongiosum urethræ*,—through which the urethra passes. It commences, posteriorly, at the bulb of the urethra,—already described under the Secretion of Urine,—and terminates anteriorly in the *glans*, which is, in no wise, a dependency of the corpora cavernosa, but is separated from them by a portion of their outer membranes; so that erection may take place in the one, and not simultaneously in the other; and injections into the corpora cavernosa of the one do not pass into those of the other. The glans appears to be the final expansion of the erectile tissue which surrounds the urethra. The posterior circular margin of the glans is called *corona glandis*, and behind this is a depression termed *cervix*, *collum* or *neck*. Several follicles exist here, called *glandulæ odoriferæ Tysoni*, which have always been considered to secrete an unctuous humour called *smegma præputii*, which often accumulates largely, where cleanliness is not attended to. The little white elevations that are found around the corona glandis, have been generally regarded as Tyson's glands. They have, however, been examined by Dr. G. Simon,\* who affirms, that they are nothing more than small round elevations of cutis, covered by papillæ and epithelium. They consist of fibro-cellular tissue, like that of the rest of the cutis; and the papillæ on them have no peculiar characters. The function—the sole function—which he ascribes to them is that of increasing the sensibility of the glans. The only organs, which Dr. Simon could find for the special secretion of the smegma—and these are not constant—are whitish corpuscles lying in or beneath the cutis, which, with the microscope, appear as small roundish sacculi, closed below, opening by a narrow orifice on the surface, and containing a white substance. These are usually situate on or behind the corona glandis, in front of or near the frænum, and sometimes on the anterior surface of the glans itself. Two or three may be found, and, in a few cases, as many as six.

The penis is covered by the skin, which forms, towards the glans, the *prepuce* or *foreskin*. The cellular tissue which unites it to the organ is lax, and never contains fat. The inner lamina of the prepuce being inserted circularly into the penis, some distance back from the point, the glans can generally be denuded, when the prepuce is drawn back. The under and middle part of the prepuce is attached to the extremity of the glans by a duplicature, called *frænum præputii*, which extends to the orifice of the urethra. The skin is continued over the glans, but it is greatly modified in its structure, being smooth and velvety, highly delicate, sensible, and vascular.

Lastly. In addition to the *acceleratores urinæ*, the *transversus perinei*, the *sphincter ani*, and the *levator ani* muscles, which we have described as equally concerned in the excretion of urine and semen, the *erector penis* or *ischio-cavernosus* muscle is largely connected with the function of generation. The genital organs of man are, in reality, merely an apparatus, for a glandular secretion of which the testicle is the gland; the vesiculæ seminales are supposed

\* Müller's Archiv. 1844, Heft 1, cited in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1845, p. 567.

to be the reservoirs; and the vas deferens and urethra the excretory ducts;—the arrangement which we observe in the penis being for the purpose of conveying the secreted fluid into the parts of the female.<sup>a</sup>

#### 1. SPERM.

The sperm, sperma or semen, is secreted by the testicles from the blood of the spermatic artery, by a mechanism, which is no more understood than that of secretion in general. When formed, it is received into the tubuli seminiferi, and passes along them to the epididymis, the vas deferens, and the vesiculæ seminales, where it is generally conceived to be deposited, until it is projected into the urethra, under venereal excitement. That this is its course is sufficiently evidenced by the arrangement of the excretory ducts, and by the function which the sperm has to fulfil. De Graaf,<sup>b</sup> however, adduces an additional proof. On tying the vas deferens of a dog, the testicle became swollen under excitement, and ultimately the duct gave way between the testicle and the ligature. The causes of the progression of the sperm through the ducts are,—the continuity of the secretion by the testicle, and a contraction of the excretory ducts themselves. These are the efficient agencies.

It has been a question with physiologists, whether the secretion of the sperm be constantly taking place, or whether, as the function of generation is accomplished at uncertain intervals, the secretion may not likewise be intermittent. It is impossible to arrive at any positive conclusion on this point. It would seem, however, unnecessary for the secretion to be effected at all times; and it is more probable, that when the vesiculæ seminales are emptied of their contents during coition, a stimulus is given to the testes by the excitement, and they are soon replenished. This, however, is more and more difficult in proportion to the number of repetitions of the venereal act, as the secretion takes place at best but slowly. By some, the spermatic and pampiniform plexuses have been regarded as diverticula to the testes during this intermission of action. The sperm passes slowly along the excretory ducts of the testicle, owing partly to the slowness of the secretion, and partly to the arrangement of the ducts, which, as we have seen, are remarkably convoluted, long, and minute. The use of the vesiculæ seminales has been disputed. The majority of physiologists consider them to be reservoirs for the sperm, and to serve the same purpose as the gall-bladder in the case of the bile. Others, however, have supposed, that they secrete a fluid of a peculiar nature, the use of which may probably be to dilute the sperm; and others, again, infer, that they are both seminal reservoirs, and secreting organs,—furnishing mucus, or perhaps some other fluid for admixture with the semen.<sup>c</sup> Dr. John Davy found spermatozoids in the fluid of

<sup>a</sup> On the anatomy and physiology of the male and female organs of generation, see Dr. G. L. Kobelt, *Die Männlichen und Weiblichen Wollust-Organen des Menschen*, u. s. w., Freiburg, 1844; noticed in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, April, 1845, p. 507; and p. 586.

<sup>b</sup> *De Virorum Organ. Gener. Inserv.*, in *Med. Oper. Omn.* Amstel. 1705.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. John Davy, in *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ.* for July, 1838, p. 12; and *Researches, Physiological and Anatomical*, Duglison's *Amer. Med. Libr.* edit. p. 363, Philad. 1840.

the vesiculæ, but except in two instances no animalcules could be seen in the fluid expressed from the divided substance of the testes. He invariably found, however, extremely minute, dense spherules, which he conjectures to be the ova of the spermatozoids.\* The vesiculæ are manifestly not essential to the function of generation, as they do not exist in all animals. The dog and cat kind, the bear, opossum, sea-otter, seal, &c., possess them not; and there are several in which there is no direct communication between the duct and the vas deferens, which open separately into the urethra. This circumstance, however, with the fact, that they generally contain, after death, a fluid of different appearance and properties from those of the sperm,—with the glandular structure, which their coats seem to possess, in many instances,—is opposed to the view, that they are simple reservoirs for the semen, and favours that which ascribes to them a peculiar secretion. Where this communication between the duct of the vesiculæ and the vas deferens exists, a reflux of the semen and an admixture between the sperm and the fluid secreted by them may take place. It is not improbable, however, as Adelon<sup>b</sup> suggests, that all the excretory ducts of the testicle may act as a reservoir; and in the case of animals, in which the vesiculæ are wanting, they must possess this office exclusively. If we are to adopt the description of Amussat as an anatomical fact, the vesiculæ themselves are constituted of a convoluted tube, having an arrangement somewhat resembling that which prevails in the excretory ducts of the testes.\*

That the excretory ducts of the testes may serve as reservoirs is proved by the fact, that impregnation is practicable after thorough castration. This has been doubted both as regards animals and man, but there is no question of the fact as regards the former.<sup>d</sup> The author's respectable friend, Dr. Pue, of Baltimore, related to him unquestionable instances of the kind. In one case, a boar was observed on one side of a hedge, striving to get at some sows in heat on the other side. The boar was castrated, and no inconvenience being apprehended, he was turned loose into the field with the sows. In five minutes after the operation, he had intercourse with one of the sows, and subsequently with others. The first sow brought forth a litter, but none of the others were impregnated. In another case, after a horse had been castrated, it was recollected, that the male organ had not been washed—which, it seems, is looked upon as advisable. To save inconvenience, it was suggested, that the same effect might be produced by putting him to a mare, then in the stable, and in heat. This was done, and, in due time, the mare brought forth a foal, unequivocally the result of this sexual union. Mr. Walton Hamilton,—a great breeder of horses, in Saratoga county, New York,—informed the author's friend, Mr. Nicholas P. Trist, of the Department of State, that he, also, had known several instances of impregnation after castration.\*

\* Ibid., p. 373.

<sup>b</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 15, Paris, 1829.

<sup>c</sup> Magendie's *Précis*, &c. ii. 348.

<sup>d</sup> Varro, *De Re Rusticâ*, lib. ii. cap. 5.

\* See some remarks, by the author, in his *American Medical Intelligencer*, p. 146, July 15, 1837; and by Dr. Warrington, *ibid.* p. 244, Oct. 1.

It is to be presumed, that the power of procreation can exist for a short time only after the operation; yet a secretion may take place from the lining membrane of the ducts, and vesiculæ, and from the prostate and other follicles; but this secretion cannot supply the place of the sperm. Sir A. Cooper gives the case of a man, who stated to him, that for nearly the first twelve months after complete castration, he had emissions in *coitu*, or the sensation of emissions. Afterwards, he had erections and intercourse at distant intervals, but without the sensation of emission.<sup>a</sup>

It has been asked, how it happens, that the sperm, in its progress along the vas deferens, does not pass directly on into the urethra by the ejaculatory duct, instead of reflowing into the spermatic vesicles? This, it has been imagined, is owing to the existence of an arrangement at the opening of the ejaculatory duct into the urethra, similar to that which prevails at the termination of the cholodoch duct in the duodenum. It is affirmed, by some, that the prostate exerts a pressure on the ductus ejaculatorius, and that the opening of the duct into the urethra is smaller than any other part of it; by others, that the ejaculatory ducts are embraced, along with the neck of the bladder, by the levator ani, and consequently, that the sperm finds a readier access into the ducts of the vesiculæ seminales.

Sperm—*lac maris*, *male's milk*, *propagatory* or *genital liquor*, *vitale virus*, *vital* or *quickenig venom*—is of a white colour, and of a faint smell, which, owing to its peculiar character, has been termed *spermatic*. This smell would seem to be derived from the secretions of the vesiculæ seminales, prostate, and mucous follicles of the urethra, as pure semen taken from the epididymis or vas deferens does not possess it.<sup>b</sup> It is of a viscid consistence, of a saline, irritating taste, and appears composed of two parts, the one more liquid and transparent, and the other more grumous. In a short time after emission, these two parts unite and the whole becomes more fluid. When examined chemically, the sperm appears to be of an alkaline, and albuminous character. Vauquelin<sup>c</sup> analyzed it, and found it to be composed,—in 1000 parts,—of water, 900; animal mucilage, 60; soda, 10; calcareous phosphate, 30. John's analysis<sup>d</sup> accords with this. Berzelius affirms, that it contains the same salts as the blood along with a peculiar animal matter—*spermatin*. After citing these analyses, Raspail<sup>e</sup> observes, that if any thing be capable of humiliating the pride of the chemist, it is assuredly the identity he is condemned to discover amongst substances, which, notwithstanding, fulfil such different functions.

No analysis has been made of the sperm as secreted by the testicle. The fluid examined has been the compound of the pure sperm and the secretions of the prostate gland and of those of Cowper. The thicker, whitish portion is considered to be the secretion of the testi-

<sup>a</sup> Observations on the Structure and Diseases of the Testis, Lond. 1830; and J. Møller, in art. Erection, Encyclopæd. Wörterb. der Medic. Wissensch. xi. 460. Berlin, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Curling, Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Testis, &c., p. 37. Lond. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Annales de Chimie, ix. 64.

<sup>d</sup> Chemische Tabellen des Thierreichs, s. 169, Nürnberg, 1814; cited in Burdach's Physiologie, u. s. w., i. 111.

<sup>e</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 386. Paris, 1833.

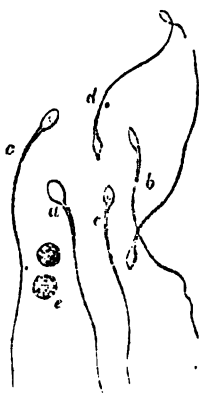


cles;—the more liquid and transparent, the fluids of the accessory glands or follicles.

Some authors have imagined, that a sort of halitus or aura is given off from the sperm, which they have called the *aura seminis*, and have considered to be sufficient for fecundation. The fallacy of this view will be exhibited hereafter. By the microscope, numerous minute bodies in the sperm, termed *seminal animalcules*,—*spermatozoa*, *zoospermes*, or *spermatozoids*,—are seen, which have generally been conceived important agents in generation.\*

By careful examination, according to Wagner,<sup>b</sup> other minute, round, granulated bodies may almost always be detected; which are, in all cases, much less numerous than the spermatozoids. These bodies he distinguishes by the names *seminal granules*—*granula seminis*. Both elements of the sperm are suspended in a small quantity of perfectly homogeneous fluid, transparent and clear as water. "Pure semen, therefore, in its most perfect state, consists principally of *seminal animalcules* and *seminal granules*, both of which are enveloped in a small quantity of fluid." This fluid Wagner calls *liquor seminis*; and he suggests, in connexion with the discoveries of Schwann and Schleiden, referred to at page 191 of this volume, whether, in the developement of the spermatozoids, the liquor seminis may not be regarded as a matrix, (*Zellenkeimstoff*, *cystoblastema*, *Schwann*,) in which the granular nuclei are developed as *cytoblasts*, which again put forth their covering or cyst as a cellular wall: the finely granular contents would then have to be considered as the *cell-fluid*. The cytoblasts disappear as soon as the spermatozoids are evolved in their contents, and the cells burst and cast out the fancied animalcules, as the cells of the algæ scatter abroad their sporules.<sup>c</sup> These bodies, however, have been denied to be peculiar to this fluid, and have been regarded as infusory animalcules, similar to those met with in all animal infusions; by others, they have been esteemed organic molecules of the sperm. M. Virey,<sup>d</sup>—a physiologist, strangely fantastic in his speculations,—conceives, that as the pollen of vegetables is a collection of small capsules, containing within them the true fecundating principle, which is of extreme subtilty, the pre-

Fig. 285.



*Spermatozoids, magnified from 900 to 1000 diameters, from the vas deferens of a man shortly after death.*

a. Flat surface. b. Profile view, margin presenting. c. The similar spot on the surface presenting. d. Spermatozoid having a process not unlike a proboscis from the anterior extremity of its body. e. Seminal granules.

\* Adelon, in art. Génération, Dict. de Méd., tom. x.; and Physiologie de l'Homme, iv. 17. See, also, Burdach's Physiologie, i. 112, for various opinions on this subject; and M. Donné, in Gazette Médicale de Paris, Juin 3, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Elements of Physiology, translated from the German, by Robert Willis, M.D., part i. p. 4, Lond. 1841. See, also, Mandl, Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 494. Paris, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Wagner, op. cit. p. 27.

<sup>d</sup> Art. Génération, in Dict. des Sciences Médicales; and Philosophie d'Histoire Naturelle. Paris, 1835.

tended spermatic animalcules are tubes containing the true sperm, and the motion we observe in them is owing to the rupture of the tubes; whilst Raspail<sup>a</sup> is led to think, that they are mere shreds, (*lambeaux*,) of the tissues of the generative organs, ejaculated with the sperm, which describe involuntary movements by virtue of the property they possess of *aspiring* and *expiring*. In confirmation of this, he states, that if we open an ovary of the mussel, we may observe, alongside the large ovules, myriads of moving shreds, whose form and size are infinitely varied, and which possess nothing resembling regular organization. They bear evident marks of laceration. These shreds, he conceives, may affect greater regularity in certain classes of animals of a more elevated order; but, he concludes, that however this may be, the spermatic animalcules, which have hitherto been classed amongst those *incertæ sedis*, may be provisionally placed in the genus *cercaria*—that is, amongst infusory, agastric animals having a kind of tail—which Raspail considers the simplest of animated beings, and to live only by “aspiration and expiration.” Wagner also remarks, that the expression *cercaria seminis*, applied to the spermatozoids, can only be a collective title, and that the manifold forms of spermatozoids, which he has found in the seminal fluid of a great number of animals, must be viewed in the light of so many different species. Ehrenberg refers them to the *haustellate entozoa*.<sup>b</sup>

The author has examined the sperm with microscopes of high magnifying power, but without being able to satisfy himself, that the minute bodies, contained in it, are animalcular. In a powerful hydroxygen microscope, not the slightest appearance of animalcules presented itself, but this may have been owing to the too great intensity of light. Sir Everard Home and Mr. Bauer<sup>c</sup> were equally unsuccessful, and they were led to conclude, that the appearance of living animalcules in the semen is not real, but the effect of a microscopic deception. Wagner<sup>d</sup> considers, that they are essential elements of the seminal fluid, and bear a specific relation to the generative act, and that they are thus far comparable to the blood-globules; which present themselves in the same manner as essential typically organized constituents of the blood amid the liquor sanguinis, just as the spermatozoids present themselves amid the liquor seminis. The question of the animality of these spermatozoids he considers to be undetermined as their internal organization had not been detected. In the appendix, however, to Dr. Wagner's work, Dr. Willis<sup>e</sup> remarks, that in the examination of the spermatozoids of the bear, Dr. Valentin<sup>f</sup> had settled the question of the organization and consequently the true animal nature of the seminal animalcule; but the question is not regarded as determined by this statement. Dr. Carpenter,<sup>g</sup> indeed, considers, that

<sup>a</sup> Op. citat. p. 389.

<sup>b</sup> For a full account of these bodies, see Wagner, op. citat. p. 6.

<sup>c</sup> Lect. on Comp. Anat. v. 337, Lond., 1828.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid., p. 228.

<sup>e</sup> Nov. Act. Acad. C. L. Natur. Curios., vol. xi. 1839.

<sup>f</sup> Human Physiology, § 733, Lond., 1842; and his Manual or Elements of Physiology, Amer. edit., p. 155, 447, Philad. 1846; and Principles of General and Comparative Physiology, § 607, Lond., 1841; and Todd and Bowman, Physiological Anatomy, &c., of Man, p. 66, Lond., 1843.

<sup>g</sup> Op. citat., p. 34.

there is but little reason to regard them as independent animalcules. He esteems them to be bodies having an inherent power of motion, not exceeding in their activity ciliated epithelium cells, and even blood corpuscles; and he thinks there is no evidence, that their function is any higher than that of the pollen-tube of plants, which conveys into the ovulum the germ of the first cells of the embryo. The view, that they are reproductive particles, but not animalcules, appears to the author to be the most probable.

The presence of the spermatozoids, whole or broken into fragments, may aid in detecting nocturnal emissions, and be of assistance in cases of alleged rape.<sup>a</sup> It would seem, however, that they are not found solely in the sperm; for Mr. Lloyd,<sup>b</sup> of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, London, stated to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, that in two cases of common hydrocele, in which he examined microscopically the fluid withdrawn by tapping, he had found a great number of them. He counted forty in one drop of the fluid. Some of them were observed to retain their power of motion for three hours after the fluid had been withdrawn. In the fluid of many other cases of hydrocele, Mr. Lloyd was unable to detect them. Since these remarks were made, however, by Mr. Lloyd, the bodies have been observed repeatedly in the fluid of common hydrocele of the tunica vaginalis testis, and in encysted hydroceles;<sup>c</sup> and Mr. Paget<sup>d</sup> considers, that the most probable explanation of their occurrence in the fluid of cysts connected with the testicle seems to be, that certain cysts, seated near the organ which naturally secretes the materials for semen, may possess the power of secreting a similar fluid.

The agency of the sperm in fecundation will be considered hereafter. It may be observed, however, that in all examinations of it, whether by the microscope or otherwise, we must bear in mind, the caution to which we have adverted more than once, as applicable to the examination of animal fluids in general,—that we ought not to conclude positively, from the results of our observations of the fluids when out of the body, that they possess precisely the same characteristics when in it; and this remark is especially applicable to the sperm, which varies manifestly in its sensible properties a short time after it has been excreted.

The sperm being the great vivifying agent,—the medium by which life is communicated from generation to generation,—it has been looked upon as one of the most important if not the most important of animal fluids; and hence it is regarded, by some physiologists, as formed of the most animalized materials, or of those that constitute the most elevated part of the new being—the nervous system. The quantity of sperm secreted cannot be estimated. It varies according to the individual, and to his extent of voluptuous excitement, as well as to the degree of previous indulgence in venereal pleasures. Where the demand is frequent, the supply is larger; although when the act

<sup>a</sup> J. Müller, *Elements of Physiology*, translated by Baly, p. 1477, London, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Provincial Medical Journal, cited in Medical Examiner, July 23, 1843, p. 168.

<sup>c</sup> Medico-chirurgical Transactions, vol. xxvii., Art. 25, London, 1844.

<sup>d</sup> Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., January, 1844, p. 270.

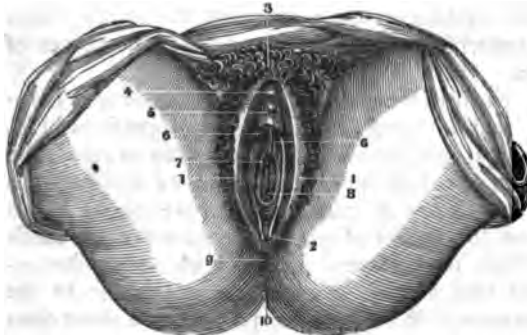
is repeatedly performed, the absolute quantity at each copulation may be less.<sup>a</sup>

### b. Genital Organs of the Female.

The genital organs of the male effect fewer functions than those of the female. They are inservient to copulation and fecundation only. Those of the female,—in addition to parts, which fulfil these offices,—comprise others for gestation and lactation.

The soft and prominent covering to the symphysis pubis—which is formed by the common integuments, elevated by fat, and, at the age of puberty, is covered by hair, formerly termed *tressoria*—is called the *mons veneris*. The absence of this hair has, by the vulgar, been esteemed a matter of reproach; and it was formerly the custom, when a female had been detected a third time in incontinent practices, in the vicinity of the Superior Courts of Westminster, to punish the offence by cutting off the *tressoria*<sup>b</sup> in open court. Occasionally its growth is excessive. Below this are the *labia pudendi* or *labia majora*, which are two large, soft lips, formed by a duplicature of the common integument, with adipose matter interposed. The inner surface is smooth, and studded with sebaceous follicles. The labia commence at the symphysis pubis, descend to the *perinæum*, which is the portion

Fig. 286.



External Organs of Generation in the Unmarried Female—the Vulva being partially opened.

1, 1. Labia majora. 2. Fourchette. 3. Mons veneris. 4. Preputium clitoridis around glans clitoridis. 5. Vestibulum. 6. Nymphae. 7. Meatus urinaris. 8. Hymen, open in its central portion and surrounding inferior extremity of the vagina. 9. Perineum. 10. Anus.

of integument, about an inch and a half in length, between the posterior commissure of the labia and the anus. This commissure is called the *frænum labiorum*, *frænum perinæi* or *fourchette*. The opening between the labia is the *vulva* or *fossa magna*. At the upper junction of the labia, and within them, a small organ exists, called the *clitoris* or *superlabia*, which greatly resembles the penis. It is formed of corpora cavernosa, and is terminated anteriorly by the *glans*, which is covered by a prepuce, consisting of a prolongation of the mucous membrane of the vagina. Unlike the penis, however, it has no corpus spongiosum, or urethra attached to it; but it is capable of being made

<sup>a</sup> Theophrastus, Pliny, and Athenæus assert, that with the help of a certain herb, an Indian prince was able to copulate seventy times in twenty-four hours!—Theophr. l. c. v., Plin. l. xxvi. c. 9, and Athenæus, l. i. c. 12. See, also, art. *Cas rares*, in Dict. des Sciences Médicales.

<sup>b</sup> Chitty's Practical Treatise on Medical Jurisprudence, part i. p. 390, American edit., Philad., 1836.

erect by a mechanism similar to that which exists in the penis; and it has two erector muscles, the *erectores clitoridis*,—similar to the erectors penis.<sup>a</sup> Anciently, if a female was detected a fourth time in incontinence in the vicinity of the Superior Courts of Westminster, the clitoris was amputated in open court.<sup>b</sup> Extending from the prepuce of the clitoris, and within the labia majora, are the *Labia minora* or *nymphæ*, the organization of which is similar to that of the labia majora. They gradually enlarge as they pass downwards, and disappear when they reach the orifice of the vagina.

A singular variety is observed in the organization of those parts amongst the Bosjesmen or Bushmen, a tribe to whose peculiarities of organization we have already had occasion to refer. Discordance has, however, prevailed regarding the precise nature of this peculiarity, some describing it as existing in the labia, others in the nymphæ, and others again, in a peculiar organization; some deeming it natural, others artificial. Dr. Somerville,<sup>c</sup> who had numerous opportunities for observation and dissection, asserts, that the mons veneris is less prominent than in the European, and is either destitute of hair, or thinly covered by a small quantity of a soft, woolly nature; that the labia are very small, so that they seem at times to be almost wanting; that the loose, pendulous, and rugous growth, which hangs from the pudendum, is a double fold; and that it is proved to be the nymphæ, by the situation of the clitoris at the commissure of the folds, as well as by all other circumstances; and that they sometimes reach five inches below the margin of the labia: Le Vaillant<sup>d</sup> says nine inches. Cuvier<sup>e</sup> examined the Hottentot Venus, and found her to agree well with the account of Dr. Somerville. The labia were very small; and a single prominence descended between them from the upper part. It divided into two lateral portions, which passed along the sides of the vagina to the inferior angle of the labia. The whole length was about four inches. When she was examined naked by the French Savans, this formation was not observed. She kept the *tablier*, *ventrale cutaneum*, or, as it is termed by the Germans, *Schürze* ("apron,") carefully concealed, either between her thighs, or yet more deeply; and it was not known, until after her death, that she possessed it. Both Mr. Barrow<sup>f</sup> and Dr. Somerville deny that the peculiarity is artificially excited.

In warm climates, the nymphæ are often greatly and inconveniently elongated, and amongst the Egyptians and other African tribes, it has been the custom to extirpate them, or to diminish their size. This is what is meant by *circumcision* in the female.

<sup>a</sup> For an interesting account of the *analogues* of the male and female organs, see Die Männlichen und Weiblichen Wollust-organe des Menschen, u. s. w., Freiburg, 1844; noticed in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Chitty, op. cit., part i. p. 391, Amer. edit., Philad., 1836.

<sup>c</sup> Medico-chirurgical Transactions, vii. 157.

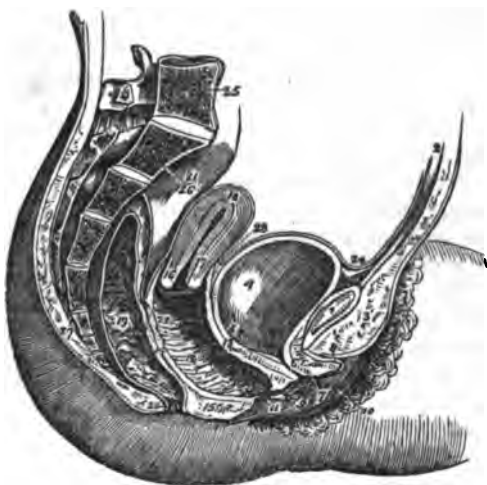
<sup>d</sup> Voyage dans l'Intérieur d'Afrique, p. 371.

<sup>e</sup> Mémoire du Muséum, iii. 266; and Broc, Essai sur les Races Humaines. p. 87, Paris, 1835.

<sup>f</sup> Travels, pp. 279, 280; see, also, Lawrence's Lectures on Physiology, Zoology, &c., London, 1819; and Dr. D. D. Davis, in Principles, &c., of Obstetric Medicine, i. 54, London, 1836.

The *vagina* is a canal, which extends between the vulva and the uterus, the neck of which it embraces. It is sometimes called the *vulvo-uterine canal*, and is from four to six inches long, and an inch

Fig. 287.



Side View of Viscera of Female Pelvis.

1. Symphysis pubis. 2. Abdominal parietes. 3. Fat forming the mons veneris. 4. Bladder. 5. Entrance of left ureter. 6. Canal of urethra. 7. Meatus urinarius. 8. Clitoris and its prepuce. 9. Left nymphæ. 10. Left labium majus. 11. Office of vagina. 12. Its canal and transverse rugæ. 13. Vesico-vaginal septum. 14. Vagino-rectal septum. 15. Section of perineum. 16. Os uteri. 17. Cervix uteri. 18. Fundus uteri. 19. Rectum. 20. Anus. 21. Upper portion of rectum. 22. Recto-uterine fold of peritoneum. 23. Utero vesical reflection of peritoneum. 24. Peritoneum reflected on the bladder from abdominal parietes. 25. Last lumbar vertebra. 26. Sacrum. 27. Coccyx.

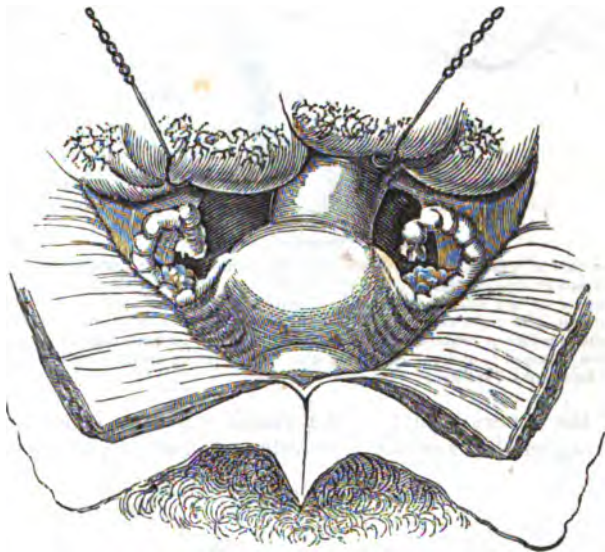
and a half, or two inches, in diameter. It is situate in the pelvis, between the bladder before, and the rectum behind; it is slightly curved, with the concavity forwards, and is narrower at the middle than at the extremities. Its inner surface has numerous—chiefly transverse—rugæ, which become less in the progress of age, after repeated acts of copulation, and especially after accouchement. It is composed of an internal mucous membrane, supplied with numerous follicles, of a dense cellular membrane, and, between these, a layer of erectile tissue, which is thicker near the vulva; but is, by some, said to extend even as far as the uterus. It is termed the *corpus spongiosum vaginae*. It is chiefly situate around

the anterior extremity of the vagina, below the clitoris, and at the base of the nymphæ; and the veins of which it is constituted are called *plexus retiformis*. The upper portion of the vagina, to a small extent, is covered by the peritoneum. The *sphincter* or *constrictor vaginae* muscle surrounds the orifice of the vagina, and covers the *plexus retiformis*. It is about an inch and a quarter wide, and ordinarily about six inches in length; arises from the body of the clitoris, and passes backwards and downwards, to be inserted into the dense, white substance in the centre of the perineum, which is common to the *transversi perinei* muscles, and the anterior point of the *sphincter ani*.

Near the external aperture of the vagina is the *hymen* or *virginal* or *vaginal valve*, which is a more or less extensive, membranous duplicature, of variable shape, and formed by the mucous membrane of the vulva, where it enters the vagina, so that it closes the canal, more or less completely. It is generally very thin, and easily lacerable: but is sometimes extremely firm, so as to prevent penetration. It is

usually of a semilunar shape; sometimes oval from right to left, or almost circular, with an aperture in the middle, whilst, occasionally, it is entirely imperforate, and of course prevents the issue of the menstrual flux. It is easily destroyed by mechanical violence of any kind,

Fig. 288.



*Anterior view of the Internal Organs of the Female.*

as by strongly rubbing the sexual organs of infants by coarse cloths, and by ulcerations of the part; hence its absence is not an absolute proof of the loss of virginity, as it was of old regarded by the Hebrews. Nor is its presence a positive evidence of continence. Individuals have conceived, in whom the aperture of the hymen has been so small as to prevent penetration. Its general semilunar or crescentic shape has been considered to explain the origin of the symbol of the *crescent* assigned to Diana—the goddess of chastity.<sup>a</sup> Around the part of the vagina, where the hymen was situate, small, reddish, flattened, or rounded tubercles—the *carunculæ myrtiformes* seu *hymenales*—afterwards exist, which are of various sizes, and are formed, according to the general opinion, by the remains of the hymen. Béclard and J. Cloquet<sup>b</sup> consider them to be folds of the mucous membrane. Their number varies from two to five, or six.

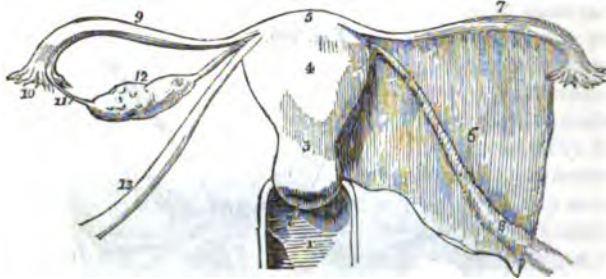
At either side of the entrance of the vagina, beneath the integument covering its inferior part, as well as the superficial perineal fascia, and the constrictor vaginæ muscle, are situate the *glands of Duverney*. The space they occupy lies between the lower end of the

<sup>a</sup> Chitty, *op. citat.* p. 389, and Beck's *Medical Jurisprudence*, 6th edit., Philad. 1838. For an elaborate description of the Hymen and Caruncles, see Devilliers, *Revue Médicale*, Mai, 1840; and *Encyclograph. des Sciences Médicales*, Juin, 1840, p. 65. See, also, Virey, *Gazette Médicale*, No. xxiii., Paris, 1840.

<sup>b</sup> *Dictionnaire de Médecine*, &c. art. Caroncule, Paris, 1821.

vagina, the ascending ramus of the ischium, the crus clitoridis, and the erector clitoridis muscle. The excretory duct is at the anterior

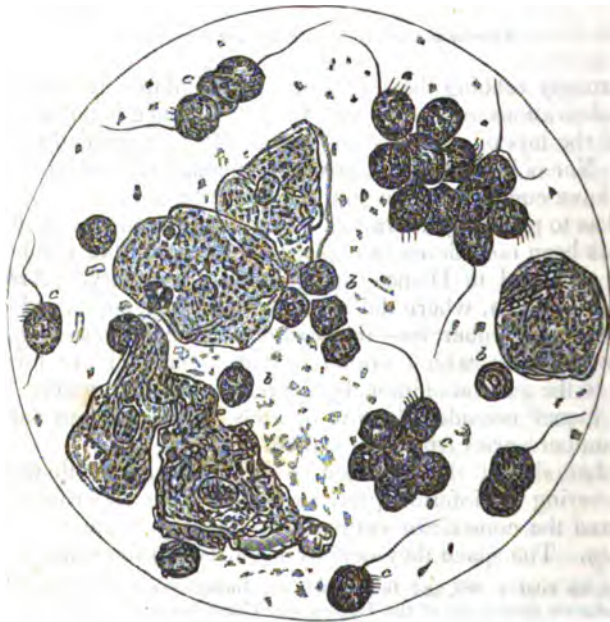
Fig. 289.

*Female Organs of Generation.*

1. Upper part of vagina. 2. Os uteri, projecting into vagina; posterior lip is seen to be longer and larger than anterior. 3. Cervix uteri. 4. Body of Uterus. 5. Its fundus. 6. Broad ligament of left side, having enclosed between its layers (7) Fallopian tube, and (8) round ligament. On right side broad ligament is removed, so as to bring more clearly into view structures which it contains. 9. Fallopian tube. 10. Its fimbriated extremity. 11. One of its fimbriae attached to ovary. 12. Ovary attached by its ligament to upper angle of uterus. 13. Round ligament.—(Wilson.)

edge of the superior part of the gland, and runs beneath the constrictor vaginæ, horizontally forwards and inwards, to the inner face

Fig. 290.



*Vaginal Mucus containing Trichomonads, magnified 400 diameters.*  
b, b, b. Purulent globules. c, c, c, c. Trichomonada.—(Donnd.)



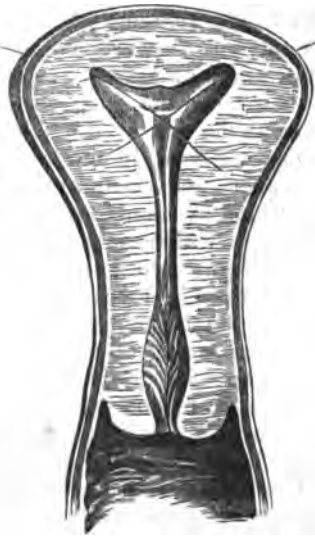
of the *nympha*, opening in front of the *carunculæ myrtiformes*, in the midst of a number of small mucous follicles.\* These glands secrete a thick, tenacious, grayish-white fluid, which is emitted in considerable quantity towards the termination of sexual intercourse, and—it has been suggested—through the spasmodic contraction of the constrictor *vaginæ* muscle, under which they lie.

When proper attention to cleanliness is not paid, so that the secretion from the mucous membrane of the *vagina* is no longer healthy, an animalcule—the *trichomonas vaginalis*—has been detected in it by M. Donné;<sup>b</sup> with occasionally small vibrios, which can only be seen when magnified three or four hundred times.

The *uterus* is a hollow organ, for the reception of the *foetus*, and its retention during gestation. It is situate in the pelvis, between the bladder—which is before, and the rectum behind, and below the convolutions of the small intestines. Fig. 287 gives a lateral view of their relative situation, and Fig. 288, of their position, when regarded from before. It is of a conoidal shape, flattened on the anterior and posterior surfaces; rounded at the base, which is above, and truncated at its apex, which is beneath. It is of small size; its length being only about two and a half inches; its breadth one and a half inch at the base, and ten lines at the neck; its thickness about an inch. It is divided into the *fundus*, *body*, and *cervix* or *neck*. The *fundus* is the upper part of the organ, which is above the insertion of the Fallopian tubes. The *body* is the part between the insertion of the tubes and the neck; and the *neck* is the lowest and narrowest portion, which projects and opens into the *vagina*.

At each of the two superior angles are—the opening of the Fallopian tube, the attachment of the ligament of the ovary, and that of the round ligament. The inferior angle is formed by the neck, which projects into the *vagina* to the distance of four or five lines, and terminates by a cleft, situate crosswise, called *os tincae*, *os uteri* or *vaginal orifice of the uterus*. The aperture is bounded by two lips, which are smooth and rounded in those that have not had children; jagged and rugous in those who are mothers,—the anterior lip being somewhat thicker than the posterior. It is from three to five lines long, and is generally more or less open, espe-

Fig. 291.



Section of Uterus.

\* Mr. Taylor, Dublin Journal of Med. Sciences, vol. xiii. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Cours de Microscopie, p. 157. Paris, 1844; and Atlas, Paris, 1845.

cially in those who have had children.<sup>a</sup> The internal cavity of the uterus is very small in proportion to the bulk of the organ, owing to the thickness of the parietes, which almost touch internally. It is divided into the cavity of the body, and that of the neck. (Fig. 291.) The former is triangular. The tubes open at its upper angles. The second cavity is more long than broad; is broader at the middle than at either end, and at the upper part, where it communicates with the cavity of the body of the uterus, an opening exists, called the *internal orifice* of the uterus; the *external orifice* being the os uteri. The inner surface has several transverse rugæ, which are not very prominent. It is covered by very fine villi, and the orifices of several mucous follicles are visible.

The precise organization of the uterus has been a topic of interesting inquiry amongst anatomists. It is usually considered to be formed of two parts, a mucous membrane internally, and the proper tissue of the uterus, which constitutes the principal part of the substance. The mucous membrane has been esteemed a prolongation of that which lines the vagina. It is very thin; of a red hue in the cavity of the body of the organ; white in that of the neck. Chaussier, Ribes, and Madame Boivin, however, deny its existence. Chaussier asserts, that having macerated the uterus and a part of the vagina in water, in vinegar, and in alkaline solutions; and having subjected them to continued ebullition, he always observed the mucous membrane of the vagina stop at the edge of the os uteri; and Madame Boivin,—a well-known French authoress on obstetrics, who has attended carefully to the anatomy of those organs during pregnancy,—says, that the mucous membrane of the vagina terminates by small expansible folds, and by a kind of prepuce, under the anterior lip of the os uteri. In their view, the inner surface of the uterus is formed of the same tissue as the rest of it.<sup>b</sup> The proper tissue of the organ is dense, compact, not easily cut, and somewhat resembles cartilage in colour, resistance, and elasticity. It is a whitish, homogeneous substance, penetrated by numerous minute vessels. In the unimpregnated state, the fibres, which seem to enter into the composition of the tissue, appear ligamentous and pass in every direction, but so as to permit the uterus to be more readily lacerated from the circumference to the centre than in any other direction. The precise character of the tissue is a matter of contention amongst anatomists. To judge from the changes it experiences during gestation, and by its energetic contraction in delivery, it would seem to be decidedly muscular, or at least capable of assuming that character; but, on this point, we shall have occasion to dwell hereafter.

The uterus has, besides the usual organic constituents,—arteries, veins, lymphatics, and nerves. The arteries proceed from two sources;—from the spermatic, which are chiefly distributed to the fundus of

<sup>a</sup> See, on the Neck of the Uterus in the Young Female, Dr. Marc d'Espine, in *Archiv. Général. de Médecine*, Avril, 1836; or *Dunglison's American Medical Intelligencer*, i. 103. Philad. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Velpeau, *Traité Élémentaire de l'Art des Accouchemens*, i. p. 77, Paris, 1829, 2d Amer. edit. by Prof. Meigs, Philad. 1838; and Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de edit. iv. 26.

the organ, and towards the part where the Fallopian tubes terminate; and from the hypogastric, which are sent especially to the body and neck. Their principal branches are readily seen under the peritoneum, which covers the organ; they are very tortuous; frequently anastomose, and their ramifications are lost in the tissue of the viscus, and on its inner surface. The veins empty themselves partly into the spermatic, and partly into the hypogastric. They are even more tortuous than the arteries; and, during pregnancy, they dilate and form what have been termed the *uterine sinuses*. The nerves are derived partly from the great sympathetic, and partly from the sacral pairs.

The uterus is sometimes absent.\*

The appendages of the uterus are:—1. The *ligamenta lata* or *broad ligaments*, which are formed by the peritoneum. This membrane is reflected over the anterior and posterior surfaces and over the fundus of the uterus; and the lateral duplicatures of it form a broad expansion, and envelope the Fallopian tubes and ovaria. These expansions

are the broad ligaments. (See Figs. 288 and 289.) 2. The *anterior* and *posterior ligaments*, which are four in number and are formed by the peritoneum. Two of these pass from the uterus to the bladder,—the *anterior*; and two between the rectum and uterus—the *posterior*. 3. The *ligamenta rotunda* or *round ligaments*, (Fig. 289,) which are about the size of a goose-quill, arise from the superior angles of the fundus uteri, and, proceeding obliquely downwards and outwards, pass out through the abdominal rings to be lost in the cellular tissue of the groins. They are whitish, somewhat dense cords, formed by a collection of tortuous veins and lymphatics, of nerves, and of longitudinal fibres, which were, at one time, believed to be muscular, but are now generally considered to consist of condensed cellular tissue. 4. The *Fallopian* or *uterine tubes*; two conical, tortuous canals, four or five inches in length; situate in the same broad ligaments that contain the ovaries, and extending from the superior angles of the uterus as far as the lateral parts of the brim of the pelvis.

Fig. 292.



Nerves of Uterus.—(R. Lee.)

\* For a number of such cases, see Dr. Chew, Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences, May, 1840 p. 39. See, also, Dr. Meigs, translation of Colombat de l'Isère, on Diseases of Females p. 119, Philad., 1845.

(Figs. 288, 289, and 293.) The uterine extremity of the tube (Figs. 291 and 293,) is extremely small, and opens into the uterus by an aperture so minute, as scarcely to admit a hog's bristle. The other extremity is called the *pavilion*. It is trumpet-shaped, fringed, and

Fig. 293.



Fallopian Tube.

commonly inclined towards the ovary, to which it is attached by one of its longest fimbria. This fringed portion is called *corpus fimbriatum* or *morsus diaboli*. The Fallopian tubes, consequently, open at one end into the cavity of the uterus, and at the other through the peritoneum into the cavity of the abdomen. They are

covered externally by the broad ligament or peritoneum; are lined internally by a mucous membrane, which is soft, villous, and has many longitudinal folds; and between these coats is a thick, dense, whitish membrane, which is possessed of contractility; although muscular fibres cannot be detected in it.\* Santorini asserts, that in robust females the middle membrane of the tubes has two muscular layers; an external, the fibres of which are longitudinal, and an internal, whose fibres are circular.

A memoir was read by M. Raciborski<sup>b</sup> to the *Académie Royale des Sciences* of Paris, in which he states it to be a general rule, that the extremities of the Fallopian tube in domestic animals are so placed during the act of fecundation as to envelope the entire ovary, either directly by means of the open trumpet-shaped extremity, or indirectly by the aid of the fimbriated extremity. In women, however, the fimbriated extremity of the tube embraces but a small portion of the ovary; and M. Raciborski thinks, that this anatomical peculiarity is the cause of extra-uterine conception being so much more common in women than in domestic animals. In the latter, indeed, it is very rare.

Fig. 294.



Section of Ovary.

The *ovaries*, (Figs. 289 and 294,) are two ovoid bodies, of a pale red colour, rugous, and nearly of the size of the testes of the male. They are situate in the cavity of the pelvis, and are contained in the posterior fold of the broad ligaments of the uterus. At one time they were conceived to be glandular, and were called the female testes; but as soon as

the notion prevailed that they contained ova, the term *ovary* or *egg-vessel* was given to them. The external extremity of the ovary has attached to it one of the principal fimbriae of the Fallopian tube. The inner extremity has a small fibro-vascular cord inserted into it; this passes to the uterus, to which it is attached behind the insertion of the

\* Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, Band. iv. s. 422, Braunschweig, 1832

<sup>b</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, 25 Juin, 1842.

Fallopian tube, and a little lower. It is called the *ligament of the ovary*, and is in the posterior ala of the broad ligament. It is solid, and has no canal. The surface of the ovary has many round prominences, and the peritoneum—forming the *indusium*—envelopes the whole of it, except at the part where the ovary adheres to the broad ligament. The precise nature of its parenchyma or *stroma* is not determined. When torn or divided longitudinally, as in Fig. 296, it appears to be constituted of a cellulo-vascular tissue. In this, there are spherical vesicles—*ovula Graafiana*, *folliculi Graafiani*,<sup>a</sup> *ovi-cap-sules* or *ovisacs*. Roederer<sup>b</sup> asserts that he found in the ovary of one woman thirty, in that of another about fifty. These are filled with an albuminous fluid, which is colourless or yellowish, and may be readily seen by dividing the vesicles carefully with the point of fine scissors. The examinations of recent histologists, however, show that the number is far beyond that mentioned by Roederer and others. At the period of puberty the stroma of the ovary is crowded with ovisacs, which are still so minute, that in the cow, according to the computation of Dr. Barry, a cubic inch would contain 200 millions of them.

The fluid from the ovary of a mare was examined by Lassaigne, and found to contain albumen, with chlorides of sodium and potassium.<sup>c</sup>

In the lower animals, the ovarium consists of a loose tissue, containing many cells, in which the ova are formed, and from which they escape by the rupture of the cell-walls; in the higher animals, as in the human female, the tissue of the ovarium is more compact, and the ova, except when they are approaching maturity, can only be distinguished by the aid of a high magnifying power.<sup>d</sup>

The microscopic analysis of the ovum has engaged the deep attention of modern histologists, who have greatly extended our knowledge in regard to it, although we have still much to learn. In the egg of the fowl the parts more interesting in the present relation are the yolk membrane and its contents, for neither the albumen which forms the white, nor the shell membrane with its calcareous covering exist in the ovum whilst in the ovary. They are added during its passage through the oviduct. Within the yolk membrane is the yolk, consisting partly of albuminous granules, and partly of oily globules. Towards the centre, the yolk changes in some degree, being of a lighter colour, and the granules having more the appearance of cells, with minuter globules in their interior. The central portion is termed *discus vitellinus*. In the centre of the yolk of the unripe ovule is a large cell, distinct in appearance from the rest, and having a nucleus in its walls. This is the *germinal vesicle*, and the nucleus is the *germinal spot*. In man and the mammalia, the ova contain the same parts; but, even when advanced, they are exceedingly minute, owing to the small quantity of vitellus that enters into their composition.

<sup>a</sup> Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, B. iv. 458. Braunschweig, 1832.

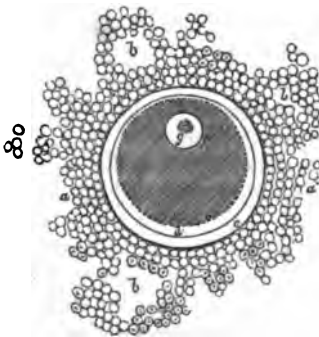
<sup>b</sup> Stannius, art. Eierstock, in Encyclop. Wörterb. u. s. w., x. 188. Berlin, 1836.

<sup>c</sup> Dupuy's Journ. de Médcc. Veterin. for July, 1826, p. 336.

<sup>d</sup> Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 739. Lond. 1842.

The ripest ovum in the ovary of the human subject, and of the mammalia, does not generally measure more than from the fifteenth to the twentieth part of a line in diameter: it rarely happens, that they are as much as  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of a line. Hence, they are distinguished with difficulty by the naked eye. Under the microscope, the Graafian vesicle is found to consist of an external and internal membrane. The former—the *tunic of the ovisac* of Dr. Barry—is extremely vascular; the latter, the *ovisac* of the same observer—the *membrana propria* of some—is smooth and velvety, and derives its vessels from the former. The cavity, enclosed by these membranes, is far from being filled by the ovum; it contains, besides, a whitish or yellowish albuminous mass, which consists chiefly of granules, from the two hundredth to the three hundredth part of a line in diameter, connected together by a tenacious fluid, and forming the *tunica granulosa* of Dr. Barry.<sup>a</sup> Its density is unequal, and, towards some part of the periphery of the vesicle, these granules are accumulated in a disk-like form, making a slight prominence, in which there is a depression. The disk is termed by Von Baer *discus proligerus*; and it has been called *discus vitellinus*, and *stratum proligerum*. The prominence is called *cumulus*. Dr. Barry likewise observed certain granular cords,

Fig. 295.



Ripe Ovum of Rabbit, taken from the Graafian Vesicle.

a, a. Proligerous disks, the edges of which are ragged and irregularly notched; the clear parts, b, b, being pale oil-globules. c. Zona pellucida. d. Vitelline membrane. e. Vitellus. f. Germinal vesicle. g. Germinal spot.—(Wagner.)

resembling both in appearance and function the chalazæ of the egg, which he has called *retinacula*, but which Bischoff does not admit. A small cup-like cavity in the cumulus receives the ovum. The ovum is surrounded by a thick white ring, which has been called *zona pellucida*, and which has been considered to be a membrane, but, according to Mr. T. W. Jones, is now pretty generally acknowledged to be "the optical expression of the circumferential doubling of a thick transparent membrane, which encloses the yolk." Within this, is a granular layer—the *vitellus*—the larger granules of which are superficial and compact; whilst, internally, it is a clear albuminous fluid almost devoid of granules. Embedded in the vitellus, but nearer its circumference than its centre, is the *germinal vesicle* or *vesicle of Purkinje*, first seen in the mammalia by M. Coste,<sup>b</sup> which appears like a clear ring, of very small size, and measures, in man and the mammalia, not more than  $\frac{1}{50}$ th part of a line in diameter. Upon a particular part of the germinal vesicle is observed the *macula germinativa* or *germinal spot*, which presents itself as a rounded granular formation attached to the inner wall of

<sup>a</sup> Philos. Transact. for 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Bischoff, Traité du Développement de l'Homme et des Mammifères, traduit par Jourdan, p. 6. Paris, 1843.

the germinal vesicle. All these parts are represented in Fig. 295. Wagner<sup>a</sup> thinks the germinal vesicle may be viewed as a cell—a primary cell—of which the germinal spot forms the nucleus, and that it would perhaps be well to style the germinal spot the *germinal nucleus*.

The observations of Carus<sup>b</sup> have shown, that the vesicles exist even in the fœtus; and according to Dr. Ritchie,<sup>c</sup> it would seem, that even during the period of childhood, there is a continual rupture of ovisacs, and discharge of ova at the surface of the ovarium. The ovaria are studded with numerous minute copper-coloured spots; and their surface presents delicate vesicular elevations, occasioned by the most matured ovisacs: the escape of these takes place by minute punctiform openings in the peritoneal coat, and no cicatrix is left.

The arteries and veins of the ovaries belong to the spermatic. The arteries pass between the two layers of the broad ligament to the ovarium, assuming there a beautiful convoluted arrangement, very similar to the convoluted arteries of the testis. These vessels traverse the ovary nearly in parallel lines, as in the marginal figure, forming numerous minute twigs, which have an irregular knotty appearance, from their tortuous condition, and appear to be chiefly distributed to the Graafian vesicles.<sup>d</sup> The nerves of the ovaries, which are extremely delicate, are from the renal plexuses; and their lymphatics communicate with those of the kidneys.

Such is the anatomy of the chief organs concerned in the function of generation. Those of lactation we shall describe hereafter.

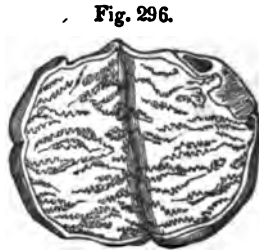


Fig. 296.

Longitudinal Division of the Ovary.

### 1. MENSTRUATION.

Before proceeding to the physiology of generation, there is one function, peculiar to the female, which will require consideration. This consists in a periodical discharge of blood from the vulva, occurring from three to six days in every month, during the whole time that the female is capable of conceiving, or from the period of puberty to what has been termed the *critical age*. This discharge is called the *catamenia*, *menses*, *flowers*, &c., and the process *menstruation*. It has been considered peculiar to the human species.<sup>e</sup> MM. Geoffroy St. Hilaire, and F. Cuvier, assert, that they have discovered indications of it in the females of certain animals; but it has been denied that this is any thing more than the exudation of a bloody mucus.<sup>f</sup> At the present day, however, menstruation is maintained by many to be identical with the *rut* of animals. In some females, men-

<sup>a</sup> Human Physiology, translated by R. Willis, p. 43, Lond. 1841. See, also, the works of the various ovologists, referred to hereafter, and especially an elaborate report on the ovum of man and the mammalia before and after fecundation, by Mr. T. W. Jones, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1843, p. 513; and Bischoff, op. cit.

<sup>b</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, Aug. 12, 1837.

<sup>c</sup> Lond. Med. Gazette, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> E. Rigby, System of Midwifery, Amer. edit. p. 23, Philad. 1841.

<sup>e</sup> Blumenbach, De Gener. Human. Variet. ed. 3, p. 51, Gotting. 1795.

<sup>f</sup> Dr. Allen Thomson, art. Generation, in Cyclop. of Anatomy and Physiology, Part xiii. p. 441, Feb. 1838.

struation is established suddenly, and without any premonitory symptoms; but, in the greater number, it is preceded and accompanied by some inconvenience. The female complains of signs of plethora, or general excitement,—indicated by redness and heat of skin, heaviness in the head, oppression, quick pulse, and pains in the back or abdomen. The discharge commences drop by drop, but continuously: during the first twenty-four hours, the flow is not as great as afterwards, and is more of a serous character; but, on the following day, it becomes more abundant and sanguineous, and gradually subsides, leaving, in many females, a whitish, mucous discharge, technically termed *leucorrhœa*, and, in popular language, the *whites*.

The quantity of fluid lost, during each menstruation, varies greatly according to the individual and the climate. Its average is supposed to be from six to eight ounces in temperate climes. By some, it has been estimated as high as twenty. Dr. Meigs<sup>a</sup> states, that he has met with many healthy women, who informed him, that they never used a napkin; so that, he observes, it is not possible to conceive, that in such persons the loss amounts to more than three or four ounces. It is difficult, indeed, to imagine that it can amount to as much. On the other hand, he is confident, that many healthy females lose at least 20 ounces at each period. The fluid proceeds from the interior of the uterus, and not from the vagina. At one time, it was believed, that in the intervals between the flow of the menses, the blood gradually accumulates in some parts of the uterus, and when these parts attain a certain degree of fulness, they give way and the blood flows. This office was ascribed to the cells,—which were conceived to exist in the substance of the uterus between the uterine arteries and veins,—and, by some, to the veins themselves, which, owing to their great size, were presumed to be reservoirs, and hence were called *uterine sinuses*. The objection to these views is,—that we have no evidence of the existence of any such accumulation; and that when the interior of the uterus of one who has died during menstruation is examined, there are no signs of any such rupture as that described; the enlarged vessels exist only during pregnancy or during the expanded state of the uterus; the veins, in the unimpregnated uterus, being small, and totally inadequate for such a purpose.

The menstrual fluid is a true exhalation, effected from the inner surface of the uterus. This is evident from the change in the lining membrane of the organ during the period of its flow. It is rendered softer and more villous, and exhibits bloody spots, with numerous pores from which the fluid may be expressed. An injection, sent into the arteries of the uterus, also readily transudes through the lining membrane. The appearance of the menstrual fluid in the cavity of the uterus, during the period of its flow; its suppression in various morbid conditions of the organ; and the direct evidence, furnished to Ruysch, Blundell,<sup>b</sup> Sir C. Clarke,<sup>c</sup> and others, in cases of prolapsus

<sup>a</sup> Edit. of Colombat de l'Isère on the Diseases, &c., of Females, p. 33. Philad. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Principles and Practice of Obstetrics, Amer. edit. p. 49. Washington, 1834.

<sup>c</sup> On Diseases of Females attended with Discharges, Amer. edit., Philad. 1824; see, also, Dr. Davis, in Principles, &c. of Obstetric Medicine, i. 256. Lond. 1836.



or of *inversio uteri*, where the fluid has been seen distilling from the uterus, likewise show that it is a uterine exhalation.

It has been a question, whether the fluid proceeds from the arteries or veins; and this has arisen from the circumstance of its being regarded as mere blood; but it is in appearance much unlike blood; and may be distinguished from it by the smell, which is *sui generis*, and also by not being coagulable. "It is," says Mr. Hunter, "neither similar to blood taken from a vein of the same person, nor to that which is extravasated by accident in any other part of the body, but is a species of blood, changed, separated, or thrown off from the common mass by an action of the vessels of the uterus, similar to that of secretion, by which action the blood loses the principle of coagulation and, I suppose, life." The principle of coagulation does not exist,—according to Lavagna,<sup>a</sup> Toulmouche, and J. Müller,<sup>b</sup> owing to the absence of fibrin. Retzius<sup>c</sup> asserts, that he has detected in it free phosphoric and lactic acids, by the presence of which, he conceives, the fibrin is kept in a state of solution and prevented from coagulating. The fluid has the properties, according to Brande, of a very concentrated solution of the colouring matter of the blood in a dilute serum.<sup>d</sup> Dr. Burow<sup>e</sup> examined twelve ounces of menstrual blood, which had been retained in the uterus by an imperforate hymen. The fluid was of a dirty reddish-brown colour, of the consistence of syrup, very adhesive, and entirely devoid of odour. It abounded in albumen, and was very little susceptible of putrefaction. When examined with the microscope, almost all the blood-corpuscles were found to have lost their regular form, and to resemble the granules, observed in pus which has been for a long time exposed to the air, or retained within the cavity of an abscess. These blood-corpuscles were suspended in a transparent fluid. On stirring the blood for a considerable time, no perceptible change was produced to the eye; but under the microscope numerous delicate transparent lamellæ were seen floating in the serum, which Dr. Burow regarded as portions of fibrin, a substance sparingly present—as has been remarked—in menstrual blood. The red colour of the menstrual fluid was found by Remak<sup>f</sup> to be owing to the presence of blood-corpuscles, and the intensity of the colour to their number.

M. Bouchardat<sup>g</sup> has undertaken a new analysis of the menstrual fluid, obtained from a female who permitted a speculum to remain in the vagina for ten hours in order that an ounce might be procured. Without this precaution, the fluid becomes mixed with vaginal mucus

<sup>a</sup> Brugnattelli, *Giornale di Fisica*, &c., p. 397, 1817; Desorméaux, in *Dict. de Médec.* xvi. 181, Paris, 1839.

<sup>b</sup> *Handbuch der Physiologie*, Baly's translation, p. 256, Lond. 1837, and p. 1481, Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> *Ans. Berättelse af Sæterblad*, 1835, Seite 19—quoted in *Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Medicin*. Marz, 1837, s. 390.

<sup>d</sup> *Philos. Transact.* cii. 113; and Blundell, *op. cit.* p. 46.

<sup>e</sup> *Möller's Archiv*. No. vii., 1840; and *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, July, 1840, p. 287.

<sup>f</sup> *Medicinische Zeitung*, Dec. 25, 1839. See, also, Mr. Ansell, *Lectures on the Physiology and Pathology of the Blood*, April 25, 1840, p. 149.

<sup>g</sup> *Brière de Boismont, De la Menstruation*, &c., Paris, 1842; and *Provincial Medical Journal*, July 30, 1842.

and urine, as the presence of ammoniaco-magnesian phosphate demonstrates. The following were the results of the analysis:—Water, 90·8; fixed matters, 6·92. The fixed matters were composed of—fibrin, albumen, and colouring matter, 75·27; extractive matter, 0·42; fatty matter, 2·21; salts, 5·31; mucus, 16·79. The female was a patient of M. Brière de Boismont, who considers, that the large proportion of water was due to the delicacy of her frame, and to her subsisting on vegetable diet (?). A specimen of menstrual blood was examined by M. Simon,<sup>a</sup> and found to be composed of water, 785·000; solid constituents, 215·000; fat, 2·580; albumen, 76·540; hæmato-globulin, 120·400; extractive matters and salts, 8·600. It contained no fibrin. Its most striking peculiarities were;—the total absence of fibrin, and the increase of solid constituents caused by the excess of blood corpuscles. The hæmato-globulin was found to be very rich in hæmatin, combined, undoubtedly, with a considerable amount of hæmaphæin. The colouring matter amounted to 8·3% of the hæmato-globulin. M. Simon thinks, however, there is little doubt that fibrin exists in the menstrual secretion; but its detection is usually rendered impracticable, owing to the presence of a large amount of mucus, which seems to deprive the blood of its power of coagulating. In an analysis made by M. Denis, and cited by M. Raciborski, in a work hereafter referred to, the menstrual fluid was found to consist of water, 825·0; solid constituents, 175·0; fibrin, 6·5; phosphorized fat, 3·9; albumen, 48·3; blood corpuscles, 63·4; mucus, 45·3; osmazome and cruorin, 1·1; soluble salts, 9·5; earthy phosphates and carbonates, 2·5; and peroxide of iron, 0·5. Rindskopf analyzed the menstrual discharge of a healthy vigorous girl. It was extremely acid, and contained in the first analysis, water, 820·830; solid residue, 179·170; salts, 10·150; in the second, water, 822·892; albumen and hæmato-globulin, 156·457; extractive matter and salts, 20·651.<sup>b</sup> Another specimen of menstrual fluid, examined by M. Donné, presented, the following appearances under the microscope. 1. Abundance of the ordinary corpuscles of the blood. 2. Vaginal mucus, formed of epidermic scales from the mucous membrane. 3. Mucous globules, furnished by the neck of the uterus (?).

So far, therefore, as these examinations go, they show, that there is much resemblance between the catamenial discharge and blood. M. Donné,<sup>c</sup> indeed, affirms, that it appears to him to differ in no respect from blood; and, that if it occasionally has an acid reaction, in place of being alkaline like ordinary blood, this is simply owing to its being mixed with a great quantity of vaginal mucus, which is always extremely acid, whilst he affirms the uterine mucus is always alkaline.<sup>d</sup> The fact of injections, sent into the arteries, transuding through the inner lining of the uterus is in favour of the flow taking place from the arteries, and the analogy of all the exhalations is confirmatory of the position. (See Secretion.) The question, whether it be a

<sup>a</sup> Animal Chemistry, by Day, Sydenham edit. p. 337. Lond. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Canstatt, *Jahrsbericht*, 1844; cited by Day, in Simon, op. cit. p. 338. See, also, an analysis by Vogel, *ibid*.

<sup>c</sup> Cours de Microscopie, p. 139. Paris, 1844.

<sup>d</sup> *Ibid*. p. 155.

secretion or a periodical hemorrhage is one of slight moment. They who are of the former opinion, believe, that the fluid differs somewhat from blood as contained in the vessels; and if such difference really exists, they must regard it as a secretion. They, on the other hand, who maintain the latter opinion, believe the fluid to be pure blood, which subsequently becomes mixed with the utero-vaginal secretions; and that the peculiar odour is occasioned by such admixture. The author has been assured, however, by one observer, that in a case of vicarious catamenial discharge, which took place from the hairy scalp, the peculiar odour was distinctly evinced. This is a point which merits farther observation.

The efficient cause of menstruation has afforded ample scope for speculation and hypothesis.<sup>a</sup> As its recurrence corresponds to a revolution of the moon around the earth, lunar influence has been invoked;<sup>b</sup> but, before this solution can be admitted, it must be shown, that the effect of lunar attraction is different in the various relative positions of the moon and earth. There is no day in the month, in which numerous females do not commence their menstrual flux, and, whilst the discharge is beginning with some, it is at its acme or decline with others. The hypothesis of lunar influence must therefore be rejected. In the time of Van Helmont,<sup>c</sup> it was believed, that a ferment exists in the uterus, which gives occasion to a periodical intestine motion in the vessels, and a recurrence of the discharge; but independently of the want of evidence of the existence of such a ferment, the difficulty remains of accounting for its regular renovation every month. Local and general plethora have been assigned as causes, and many of the circumstances, that modify the flow, favour the opinion. The fact of, what has been called, *vicarious menstruation*, has been urged in support of this view. In these cases, instead of the menstrual flux taking place from the uterus, hemorrhages occur from various other parts of the body, as the breast, lungs, ears, eyes, nose, &c. It does not seem, however, that in some of these cases, the term *menstruation* is appropriate; inasmuch as the fluid is not menstrual, but consists of blood periodically extravasated. Still, they would appear to indicate, that there is a necessity for the monthly evacuation or *purgation*, *Reinigung*, as the French and Germans term it; and that if this be obstructed, a vicarious hemorrhage may be established; yet the loss of several times the quantity of blood from the arm, previous to, or in the very act of, menstruation does not always prevent, or interrupt the flow of the catamenia; and in those maladies, which are caused by their obstruction, greater relief is afforded by the flow of a few drops from the uterus itself, than by ten times the quantity from any other part. Some of the believers in local plethora of the uterus have maintained, that the arteries of the pelvis are more relaxed in the female than in the male, and the veins more unyielding; hence, that the first of these vessels convey more blood than the second return. It has been also affirmed, that whilst the arteries of the head predominate in man, by reason of his being

<sup>a</sup> Dr. D. Davis, op. cit. i. 259.

<sup>b</sup> Mead, *De Imperio Solis et Lunæ*, p. 47.

<sup>c</sup> Opera, edit. 4, p. 440, Lugd. Bat. 1667; and Haller, *Elementa Physiologiæ*, vii. 1.

more disposed for intellectual meditation, the pelvic and uterine arteries predominate in the female, owing to her destination being more especially for reproduction. Setting aside all these gratuitous assumptions, it is obvious, that a state, if not of plethora, at least of irritation, must occur in the uterus every month, which gives occasion to the menstrual secretion; but, as Adelon<sup>a</sup> has properly remarked, it is not possible to say, why this irritation is renewed monthly, any more than to explain, why the predominance of one organ succeeds that of another in the succession of the ages. The function is as natural, as instinctive to the female, as the developement of the whole sexual system at the period of puberty. That it is connected most materially with the capability of reproduction is shown by the fact, that it does not make its appearance until puberty,—the period at which the young female is capable of conceiving, and that it disappears at the critical time of life, when conception is impracticable. It is arrested, too, as a general rule, during pregnancy and lactation; and in amenorrhœa or obstruction of the menses, fecundation is not readily effected. In that variety, indeed, of menstruation, which is accomplished with much pain at every period, and is accompanied by the secretion of a membranous substance having the shape of the uterine cavity, conception may be esteemed impracticable. Professor Hamilton, of the University of Edinburgh, was in the habit of adducing this, in his lectures, as one of two circumstances—the other being the want of a uterus—that are invincible obstacles to fecundation. Yet, in the case of dysmenorrhœa, of the kind mentioned, if the female can be made to pass one monthly period without suffering, or without the morbid secretion from the uterine cavity, she may become pregnant, and the whole of the evil be removed: for, the effect of pregnancy being to arrest the catamenia, the morbid habit is usually got rid of during gestation and lactation, and may not subsequently recur.

Gall<sup>b</sup> strangely supposed, that some general, but extraneous cause of menstruation exists, other than the influence of the moon; and he affirms, that, in all countries, females generally menstruate about the same time; that there are, consequently, periods of the month in which none are in that condition; and he affirms, that all females may, in this respect, be divided into two classes:—the one comprising those who menstruate in the first eight days of the month, and the other, those who are “unwell”—as it is termed by them, in some countries—in the last fortnight. He does not, however, attempt to divine what this cause is. We are satisfied, that his positions are erroneous. Attention to the matter has led to the knowledge, already expressed, that there is no period of the moon, at which the catamenial discharge is not taking place in some; and we have not the slightest reason for supposing, that, on the average, more females are menstruating at any one part of the month than at another.<sup>c</sup> It would seem, however, that there are circumstances in the economy, which, as in the case

<sup>a</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2d édit. iv. 48, Paris, 1829.

<sup>b</sup> *Sur les Fonctions du Cerveau*, iv. p. 355.

<sup>c</sup> See art. Generation, by Dr. Allen Thomson, in *Cycl. Anat. and Physiol.*, Part xiii. p. 440, Feb. 1838.

of fevers, give occasion to something like periodicity at intervals of seven days;—for example, Mr. Robertson,<sup>a</sup> of Manchester, England, asserts, that of 100 women, the catamenia returned every fourth week in 68; every third week in 28; every second week in 1; and at irregular intervals in 10; these varieties usually existing as family and constitutional peculiarities.

It is scarcely necessary to notice the visionary speculations of those who have regarded menstruation as a mechanical consequence of the erect attitude; or the opinion of Roussel,<sup>b</sup> that it originally did not exist, but that being produced artificially by too succulent and nutritious a regimen, it was afterwards propagated from generation to generation; or, finally, that of Aubert, who maintained, that if the first amorous inclinations were satisfied, the resulting pregnancy would totally prevent the establishment of menstruation. The function, it need scarcely be repeated, is instinctive, and forms an essential part of the female constitution.

M. Gendrin,<sup>c</sup> and others, have revived a view entertained by Mr. Cruikshank,<sup>d</sup> Dr. Power,<sup>e</sup> and others, that menstruation is dependent upon changes occurring periodically in the ovary. Many cases have been related by Cruikshank, Robt. Lee,<sup>f</sup> Gendrin, Négrier, Bischoff, and others, in which, on the dissection of females who had died during menstruation, evidences have been afforded of the rupture of an ovarian vesicle, and of a small irregular rupture or cicatrix in the coats of the ovarium, as represented in the marginal figure, which communicated with the remains of a Graafian vesicle:<sup>g</sup>



*Ovary of a Female dying during Menstruation.*

whence it has been inferred, that during the whole of that period of life when the capability for conception continues, there is a constantly successive developement of vesicles and their contained ovules in the ovary, and that, at each epoch of menstruation, a vesicle having

<sup>a</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, xxxviii. 237.

<sup>b</sup> *Système Physique, &c., de la Femme*, p. 13, Paris, 1809.

<sup>c</sup> *Traité Philosophique de Médecine Pratique*, Paris, 1838-9.

<sup>d</sup> See Brit. and For. Med. Review, Oct. 1840, p. 592.

<sup>e</sup> An Essay on the Periodical Discharge, &c., London, 1832.

<sup>f</sup> M. Négrier, cited in *Dunghison's Amer. Med. Intelligencer*, July 15, 1840, p. 121. See, also, Dr. Robt. Lee, art. Ovaria, *Cyclopædia of Pract. Medicine*, Amer. edit., by the author, Philadelphia, 1845; Dr. Laycock, on the Nervous Diseases of Women, p. 42, London, 1840; and Dr. R. Willis, in note to *Wagner's Elements of Physiology*, p. 69, London, 1841.

<sup>g</sup> Churchill, *Theory and Practice of Midwifery*, 2d Amer. edit. by Prof. R. M. Huston, p. 70, Philad. 1846.

reached the surface of the ovary becomes the seat of a peculiar organic action, in which all the organs of generation participate; and that the result of this action is the rupture of the vesicle, and the loss of the infecund ovum, either by expulsion from the uterus or by destruction in the ovary. More recently, M. Raciborski,<sup>a</sup> has maintained, as the result of his researches on menstruation—*First*. That there exists the most intimate connexion between the Graafian vesicles and menstruation. When these vesicles arrive at their full development, menstruation commences, and when they are destroyed, it ceases. *Secondly*. At each menstrual period, a follicle projects like a nipple on the surface of the ovary, where it afterwards bursts, without requiring for that purpose any venereal excitement. *Thirdly*. The rupture of the follicles in general appears to take place at the period when the menstrual discharge is stopping; and *Fourthly*. The ovaries do not act alternately, as has been affirmed: in this respect not seeming to be under any fixed law.<sup>b</sup> In a still more recent work<sup>c</sup> he asserts the doctrine, that the catamenia are but a secondary phenomenon in menstruation properly so called, and that the capital phenomenon is the maturation and periodical discharge (*ponte*) of ova; and hence, that a woman may give birth to several children without ever having seen the catamenia. Of late, much attention has been given to this subject, and especially by Dr. Ritchie.<sup>d</sup> As before remarked, this gentleman affirms, that even during the period of childhood, there is a continual rupture of ovisacs, and discharge of ova at the surface of the ovarium. About the period of puberty, he states, a marked change usually takes place in the mode in which the ovisacs discharge their contents; but this change does not necessarily occur simultaneously with the first appearance of the catamenia. The ovaries now receive a much larger supply of blood, and the ovisacs exhibit a great increase in bulk and vascularity, so that when they appear at the surface of the ovary, they resemble pisiform turgid elevations; and the discharge of their contents leaves a much larger cicatrix, and is accompanied by an effusion of blood into their cavities. It would appear, however, from Dr. Ritchie's observations, that although this discharge takes place most frequently at the menstrual period, yet the two occurrences are not necessarily coexistent; for menstruation may occur without any such rupture; and on the other hand, the maturation and discharge of mature ova may occur in the intervals of menstruation, and even at periods of life when that function is not taking place, as before the age of puberty. The essential condition of menstruation itself would seem to be the increased turgescence of the vessels of the uterus, and

<sup>a</sup> Bulet. de l'Acad m. Royal. de M d., Jan. 1843; and Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., April, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> See, on this subject, Mr. Girdwood, London Lancet, March 4, 1843, p. 825; and also, Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1844, p. 270.

<sup>c</sup> De la Pubert  et de l'Age Critique chez la Femme, et sur la Ponte des Mammi rea, &c., Paris, 1844.

<sup>d</sup> London Medical Gazette, 1843; Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Med., Aug. 1845, or Amer. Journal of Med. Sciences, Oct. 1845, p. 431, and Jan. 1846, p. 185.

the appearance, on its inner surface, of a fresh wall of deciduous vilous vessels, which may remain for at least two weeks.\*

It has been much urged of late, as it was formerly, that there is a striking analogy between menstruation and the *rut* or period of heat in animals; and so far as regards the maturation of ova, and the periodical secretion from the genital organs, in both conditions, there may be ground for the analogy; but in other respects it is forced, and unsatisfactorily supported. Heat in animals means "venereal heat"—*ardor venereus*—and at this time only does the female admit the male; whilst the human female receives him at all times. It has been attempted, indeed, to show that the human female, during menstruation, has the same increase of venereal ardour, and that the capability for impregnation is at this time at its acme. But this is surely contrary to exact observation. Müller,<sup>b</sup> Burdach,<sup>c</sup> and others,<sup>d</sup> have denied the greater sexual feeling during the flow; and the author, after careful inquiry, has met with nothing to confirm it. After the menstrual period, it can be readily understood, that more feeling may exist, owing to sexual intercourse having been for a time interrupted; yet it would appear, that impregnation frequently occurs immediately before the last catamenial discharge. "The fact," says Dr. Carpenter,<sup>e</sup> "that conception often takes place before the last appearance of the catamenia (and not after it, as commonly imagined), is one well known to practical men." He is one of those who think "there is good reason to believe that in women the sexual feeling becomes stronger at that epoch [the menstrual]; and it is quite certain," he says, "that there is a greater aptitude for conception immediately before and after menstruation, than there is at any intermediate period."

It would be strange, however, if the period of greatest aptitude for conception should be the one at which there is and always has been a repugnance to sexual union on the part of both sexes. Bischoff and Mr. Girdwood,<sup>f</sup> consider this repugnance to be the result of habit, and the natural delicacy of the sex, rather than of actual disrelish; but this is by no means proved: on the contrary, facts would seem to establish the reverse. As confirmatory of the view, it has been affirmed by M. Raciborski<sup>g</sup>—who is, by the way, an ardent and enthusiastic observer—that the exceptions to the rule, that conception occurs immediately before, or immediately after, or during menstruation, are not more than six or seven per cent.; and that "of fifteen women, who specified accurately [?] the period of their latest menstruation, as well as the dates of the connubial act, five conceived from coitus taking place from two to four days previous to the period at which the catamenial discharge was due; in seven, conception was dated from coitus occurring two or three days after menstua-

\* Carpenter, *Principles of Human Physiology*, 2d edit., p. 688, London, 1844.

<sup>b</sup> *Physiology*, by Baly, p. 1482.

<sup>c</sup> *Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, i. 250, 2te Auflage, Leipz. 1835.

<sup>d</sup> Moser, art. *Menstrus*, in *Encyclop. der Medicin, Wissenschaft*, xxiii. 133, Berlin, 1840.

<sup>e</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>f</sup> *London Lancet*, Dec. 7 and 14, 1844.

<sup>g</sup> *London Lancet*, Jan. 28, 1843, and in *op. cit.*

tion; in two, it took place at the actual period of the catamenia; and in only one so long as ten days after menstruation." Even in the exceptional case—we are told—the catamenia made their appearance shortly after the coitus, which took place at about the middle of the interval between the two regular periods.

These statements may be taken for what they are worth. They are, even if the facts were accurately observed, of which doubt may be entertained, numerically insufficient to enable any positive conclusions to be drawn: certainly we are not justified in inferring, that excepting within a short period before and after menstruation, the female is not likely to conceive, when—as hereafter shown—it has been sufficiently proved, that she is throwing off from the ovary infecund ova at other periods than the menstrual. All that we are perhaps justified in admitting from recent observations is the connexion of menstruation with the condition of the ovaries:—that ova are at this time, as at others, matured and discharged into the Fallopian tubes; and that changes occur in the lining of the uterus accompanied by a peculiar discharge;—the ovarian and uterine changes being simultaneous, and *perhaps* the latter being consequent on the former; but we have not approached, in the slightest degree, to a knowledge of the purpose served by the periodical catamenial secretion. If the periodical discharge of ova be menstruation, why is it, that the catamenial flow does not always accompany the maturation and discharge of ova?

The bearings of these views on impregnation and the formation of corpora lutea will be seen hereafter.

The age, at which menstruation commences, varies in individuals and in different climates. It has been esteemed a general law, that the warmer the climate, the earlier the discharge takes place, and the sooner it ceases;<sup>a</sup> but there is reason for doubting the correctness of this prevalent belief.<sup>b</sup> With us, the most common period of its commencement is from thirteen to seventeen years. Mahomet is said to have consummated his marriage with one of his wives, "when she was full eight years old."<sup>c</sup> Of 450 cases, observed at the Manchester Lying-in Hospital, in England,<sup>d</sup> menstruation commenced in the eleventh year in 10; in the twelfth in 19; in the thirteenth in 53; in the fourteenth in 85; in the fifteenth in 97; in the sixteenth in 76; in the seventeenth in 57; in the eighteenth in 26; in the nineteenth in 23; and in the twentieth in 4. Menstruation commonly ceases in the temperate zone at from forty to fifty years. These estimates are, however, liable to many exceptions, dependent upon individual differences. In rare cases, the catamenia have appeared at a very early age, even in childhood; and again, the menses with powers of fecundity have continued, in particular instances, beyond the ages that have been specified: some of these protracted cases have had regular catamenia; in others, the discharge, after a long suppression, has returned. Of 77 individuals, they ceased in 1 at the age of 35; in 4 at 40; in 1 at 42; in 1 at 43; in 3 at 44; in 4 at 45; in 3 at 47; in 10

<sup>a</sup> Raciborski, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. A. Thomson, *op. citat.* p. 442.

<sup>c</sup> Prideaux's *Life of Mahomet*, p. 30, London, 1718.

<sup>d</sup> Robertson, *op. citat.*



at 48; in 7 at 49; in 26 at 50; in 2 at 51; in 7 at 52; in 2 at 53; in 2 at 54; in 1 at 57; in 2 at 60; and in 1 at 70. Of the 10,000 pregnant females, registered at the Manchester Hospital, 436 were upwards of 40 years of age; 397 from 40 to 45; 13 in their 47th year; 8 in their 48th; 6 in their 49th; 9 in their 50th; 1 in her 52d; 1 in her 53d; and 1 in her 54th. Mr. Robertson asserts, that as far as he could ascertain,—and especially in the three cases above 50 years,—the catamenia continued up to the period of conception.<sup>a</sup>

The following table has recently been published by M. Brière de Boismont.<sup>b</sup> It is founded on the results of 2352 cases. It will be seen from it, that by far the greatest number of women begin to menstruate during the 14th or 15th year.

Age.	Paris, 1900 cases by Meniere.	Paris, 85 cases by Marc D'Es- pine.	Lyons, 432 cases by Pétréquin.	Marseilles, 68 cases by Marc D'Es- pine.	Manchester, 450 cases by Robertson.	Göttingen, 137 cases by Osiander.
5	1	0	0	0	0	0
7	1	0	0	0	0	0
8	2	0	0	0	0	0
9	10	1	0	0	0	0
10	29	0	5	0	0	0
11	93	3	14	6	10	0
12	105	14	26	10	19	3
13	132	6	47	13	53	8
14	194	18	50	9	85	21
15	190	14	70	16	97	32
16	141	7	79	8	76	24
17	127	6	58	4	57	11
18	90	5	38	2	26	18
19	35	8	21	0	23	10
20	30	3	9	0	4	8
21	8	0	5	0	0	1
22	8	0	1	0	0	0
23	4	0	0	0	0	1
24	0	0	3	0	0	0*

Dr. Guy<sup>a</sup> has furnished some valuable statistics in regard to the period at which the function commences and ceases amongst females in England. From observations on 1500 cases, he found, that the greatest number first menstruated at the age of 15; the 14th year came next in order; then the 16th: whilst the number at 13 and 17, at 12 and 18, and at 11 and 19, approximated very closely to each other. Before the 11th, and after the 19th year, the numbers were very small. In more than half the cases, the menses made their first appearance at 14, 15, and 16 years of age. The earliest period was 8, and the latest 25. In regard to the period at which menstruation ceases, he deduced from the results of 400 cases, that it might occur independently of disease, at any period from the 27th to the 57th

<sup>a</sup> See Montgomery, on the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, p. 160, London, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> De la Menstruation, &c. Paris, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> For a similar table, formed from 5063 cases, see Dr. W. A. Guy, Principles of Forensic Medicine, part i. p. 79, Lond. 1843. See, also, Dr. Murphy, in London Lancet, Nov. 30, 1844, from Dublin Journal of Medical Science.

<sup>d</sup> Medical Times, Aug. 9, 1845; cited in Ranking's Abstract, vol. i. part ii. p. 248, New York edition, 1846.

year. In the majority of cases it occurred between 40 and 50 years,—the number from 45 to 50 being greater than that from 40 to 45 years.

Mr. Robertson<sup>a</sup> has attempted, and successfully, to show, that the age of puberty is about as early in the cold, as in the tropical regions of the earth; and, that were marriages to take place in England at as juvenile an age as they do in Hindusthan, instances of very early fecundity would be as common in England as they are in that country. He is of opinion, that early marriage and early intercourse between the sexes, where found prevailing generally, “are to be attributed, not to any peculiar precocity, but to a moral and political degradation, exhibited in ill laws and customs, the enslavement more or less of the women, ignorance of letters, and impure or debasing systems of religion.” He has also shown, from statistical evidence, that menstruation does not occur more early in the negress than in the white female. Dr. Vaigas, of Caraccas, indeed, in a letter to Professor Meigs, of Philadelphia, affirms, that precocious menstruation is more common in the white than in the coloured.<sup>b</sup>

It would seem, too, that when accurate investigations have been made, there is no striking difference between the age of puberty in the Esquimaux and in the women of Great Britain and this country. It is neither later owing to the rigour of the climate, nor earlier owing to race. Of 16 Esquimaux women, in regard to whom data on this subject were furnished to Mr. Robertson,<sup>c</sup> none menstruated under the age of 14; but, on the other hand, half the 16 Esquimaux menstruated under 16 years of age; whilst in corresponding data in regard to English women furnished by these observers, there was but one.

In the statement sent to Parliament by Bartholomew Mosse, when endeavouring to procure a grant for the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, he mentions, that 84 of the women delivered under his care were between the ages of 41 and 54; 4 of these were in their 51st year, and 1 in her 54th. A relation of Haller had two sons after her 50th year; and children are said to have been born even after the mother had attained the age of 60.<sup>d</sup> Holdefreund relates the case of a female, in whom menstruation continued till the age of 71;<sup>e</sup> Bourgeois till the age of 80; and Hagendorn till 90; however, it is probable that these were not cases of true menstruation, but perhaps of irregularly periodical discharges of true blood from the uterus or vagina.<sup>f</sup>

As a general rule, the appearance of the menses denotes the capability of being impregnated, and their cessation the loss of such capability. Yet, as already remarked, females have become mothers

<sup>a</sup> Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal, Oct. 1832, July, 1842, and July, 1845, p. 156; and London Med. Gazette, July 21, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> A Treatise on the Diseases and Special Hygiene of Females, by Colombat de Plétre, translated by Dr. Meigs, p. 21. Philad. 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal; cited in London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science, March, 1845, p. 232.

<sup>d</sup> See a case of this kind in Transylvania Journal, ix. 185. Lexington, 1836.

<sup>e</sup> See a case by Dr. Strassberger, of recurrence of menstruation at 80, after it had ceased at 42 years of age, in Medicin. Zeitung, s. 248, Nov. 30, 1836.

<sup>f</sup> Dr. D. Davis, Principles, &c., of Obstetric Medicine, i. 239, London, 1836; and C. W. Mehliss, Ueber Virilescenz und Rejuvenescenz Thierischer Körper, s. 75. Leipz. 1838.

without ever having menstruated.\* Foderé<sup>b</sup> attended a woman, who had menstruated but once—in her 17th year,—although 35 years of age, healthy, and the mother of five children. Morgagni instances a mother and daughter, both of whom were mothers before they menstruated. Sir E. Home<sup>c</sup> mentions the case of a young woman, who was married before she was seventeen, and, having never menstruated, became pregnant; four months after her delivery, she became pregnant again; and four months after the second delivery, she was a third time pregnant, but miscarried: after this she menstruated for the first time, and continued to do so for several periods, when she again became pregnant; and Mr. Harrison,<sup>d</sup> at a meeting of the Westminster Medical Society remarked, that he knew an instance in which the mother of a large family had never menstruated;—yet Dr. Dewees<sup>e</sup> and Dr. Campbell<sup>f</sup> assert, that there is not a properly attested instance on record of a female's conceiving previous to the establishment of the catamenia: the latter gentleman admits, however, that when an individual has once been impregnated, she may conceive again, several times in succession, without any recurrence of the catamenia between these different conceptions,—because *he* has known a case of this kind, but not of the other!

During the existence of menstruation, the system of the female is more irritable than at other times; so that all exposure to sudden and irregular checks of transpiration should be avoided, as well as every kind of mental and corporeal agitation, otherwise the process may be impeded, or hysterical and other troublesome affections be excited. The sacred volume exhibits the feeling entertained towards the female, whilst performing this natural function. Not only was she regarded “unclean” in antiquity: she was looked upon, as Dr. Elliotson has remarked,<sup>g</sup> to be mysteriously deleterious. In the time of Pliny,<sup>h</sup> a female, during menstruation, was considered to blight corn, destroy grafts and hives of bees, dry up fields of corn, cause iron and copper to rust and smell, drive dogs mad, &c., &c.; and it is firmly believed by many, that meat will not take salt if the process be conducted by a female so circumstanced. La Motte<sup>i</sup> had implicit belief in this opinion, and carried the absurdity so far as to assert, that red-haired women are worse than others in this respect; and he gives an anecdote of a red-haired servant of his who spoiled some choice wine, as he was about to sit down to enjoy it. He asserts positively, that the instant she touched the bottles, the wine was converted into vinegar—much to the annoyance of himself and guests.<sup>j</sup>

The temperature of the vagina does not appear to be affected by menstruation or pregnancy.<sup>k</sup>

\* Churchill, *op. cit.*

<sup>b</sup> *Médecine Légale*, i. 393. Paris, 1813.

<sup>c</sup> *Philosoph. Transact.* cvii. 258; and *Lect. on Comp. Anatomy*, iii. 298.

<sup>d</sup> *London Lancet*, Jan. 19, 1839, p. 619.

<sup>e</sup> *Compend. System of Midwifery*, 8th edit. Philad. 1836.

<sup>f</sup> *Introduction to the Study of Midwifery*. Edinb. 1833.

<sup>g</sup> Elliotson's *Blumenbach*, p. 465. Lond. 1828.

<sup>h</sup> *Histor. Natural.* xxvii.

<sup>i</sup> *Traité des Accouchemens*, p. 57.

<sup>j</sup> See on this, and on the whole subject of menstruation, Dr. C. Bell, *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, Oct. 1844, p. 313.

<sup>k</sup> Fricke, *Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Medicin*, Nov. 1838.

c. *Sexual Ambiguity.*

The sexual characteristics, in the human species, are widely separate; and the two perfect sexes are never, perhaps, united in the same individual. Yet such an unnatural union has been supposed to exist; from the fabulous son of *'Egūns* and *Appodirē*,—Mercury and Venus,—to his less dignified representative of modern times:—

“Nec femina dici,  
Nec puer ut possent, neutrumque et utrumque videntur.”—*Ovid.*<sup>a</sup>

We have already remarked, that in the lower animals, and in plants, such hermaphroditism is common; but, in the upper classes and especially in man, a formation, which gives to an individual the attributes of both sexes, has never been witnessed.<sup>b</sup> Monstrous formations are occasionally met with; but if careful examination be made, it can usually be determined to what sex they rather belong. Cases, however, occur, in which it is extremely difficult to decide, although we may readily pronounce that the being is totally incapable of the function of reproduction. The generality of cases are produced by unusual development of the clitoris in the female, or by a cleft scrotum in the male. Only two instances of this kind have fallen under the observation of the author, both of which were females, as they usually are. One of these has been described by the late Professor Bécclard, of Paris, whose details we borrow.<sup>c</sup>

Marie-Madeleine Lefort, aged sixteen years, seemed to belong to the male sex, if attention were paid merely to the proportions of the trunk, limbs, shoulders, and pelvis; to the conformation and dimensions of the pelvis; to the size of the larynx; the tone of the voice, the development of the hair; and to the form of the urethra, which extended beyond the symphysis pubis. An attentive examination, however, of the genital organs showed, that she was of the female sex. The mons veneris was round and covered with hair. Below the symphysis pubis was a clitoris, resembling the penis in shape, twenty-seven millimètres, or about an inch long, in the state of flaccidity; and susceptible of slight elongation during erection; having an imperforate glans, hollowed beneath by a duct or channel, at the inferior part of which were five small holes, situate regularly on the median line. Beneath and behind the clitoris, a vulva existed, with two narrow, short and thin labia, furnished with hair, devoid of any thing like testicles, and extending to within ten lines of the anus. Between the labia was a very superficial cleft, pressure upon which communicated a vague sensation of a void space in front of the anus. At the root of the clitoris was a round aperture, through which a catheter could not be passed into the bladder. It could be readily introduced, however, towards the anus, in a direction parallel to the perineum. When the catheter was passed a little backwards and

<sup>a</sup> “Both bodies in a single body mix,  
A single body with a double sex.”—*Addison.*

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Willis, in *Wagner's Elements of Physiology*, Part i. p. 55, Philad. 1841. See a case of supposed hermaphroditism, by Robt. Perry, with the dissection, by Sir Astley Cooper, in *Guy's Hospital Reports*, for April and October, 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Art. *Hermaphrodite*, in *Dict. de Médecine*, tom. xi.

upwards to the depth of eight or ten centimètres, it was arrested by a sensible obstacle, but no urine flowed through it. It seemed to be in the vagina. At the part where the vagina stopped, a substance could be distinguished through the parietes of the rectum, which appeared to be the body of the uterus. Nowhere could testicles be discovered. She had menstruated from the age of eight years; the blood issuing in a half coagulated state through the aperture at the root of the clitoris. She experienced, too, manifest inclination for commerce with the male, and a slight operation only would probably have been necessary to divide the apron, which closed the vulva from the clitoris to the posterior commissure of the labia. The urethra extended in this case for some distance beneath the clitoris, as in the penis. From all the circumstances, M. Béclard concluded that the person, subjected to the examination of the *Société de Médecine* of Paris, was a female; and that she possessed several of the essential organs of the female,—the uterus and vagina,—whilst she had only the secondary characters of the male—as the proportions of the trunk and limbs, and of the shoulders and pelvis; the conformation and dimensions of the pelvis; the size of the larynx; the tone of the voice; the developement of the hair; the urethra extending beyond the symphysis pubis, &c.

In the year 1818, an individual was exhibited in London, who had a singular union of the apparent characteristics of the two sexes. The countenance resembled that of the male, and she had a beard, but it was scanty. The shape, however, of the body and limbs was that of the female. The students of the Anatomical Theatre of Great Blenheim Street, London, of whom the author was one, offered her a certain sum, provided she would permit the sexual organs to be inspected by the veteran head of the school—Mr. Brookes: to this she consented. She was, accordingly, exposed before the class; and her most striking peculiarities exhibited. The clitoris was large, but not perforate. Mr. Brookes, desirous of trying the *experimentum crucis*, passed a catheter into the vagina, and attempted to introduce another into the urethra; but fearing discovery, and finding that the mystery of her condition was on the point of being unveiled, she started up and defeated the experiment. No doubt existed in the mind of Mr. Brookes, that there were two distinct canals,—one forming the vagina; the other the urethra,—and that she was consequently female.

One of the most complete cases of admixture of the sexes was described by Rudolphi before the *Academy of Sciences* of Berlin, at the sitting of October 22, 1825.\* It was met with in the body of a child, which died, it was said, seven days after birth; but the developement of parts led to the supposition, that it was three months old. The penis was divided inferiorly; the right side of the scrotum contained a testicle; the left side was small and empty. There was a uterus, which communicated at its superior and left portion with a Fallopian tube, behind which was an ovary destitute of its ligament. On the right side, there was neither Fallopian tube, nor ovary, nor ligament, but a true testicle, from the epididymis of which arose a vas deferens.

\* Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, p. 499, Feb., 1832.

Below the uterus was a hard, flattened ovoid body, which, when divided, exhibited a cavity with thick parietes. The uterus terminated above in the parietes of this body, but without penetrating its cavity. At its inferior part was a true vagina, which terminated in a cul-de-sac. The urethra opened into the bladder, which was perfect; and the anus, rectum, and other organs were formed naturally. Rudolphi considered the ovoid body, situate beneath the uterus, to be the prostate, and vesiculæ seminales, in a rudimental state.

A curious case of doubtful sex was seen by the author's friend—Dr. Pue, of Baltimore. It occurred in a negro, who had the appearance of a woman, and passed for such. On examination, at the request of her owner, Dr. Pue found no signs of female organs of generation. There was a penis of some developement—the size of a boy's, 12 or 14 years old. The glans was well formed, but the urethra did not terminate at the extremity of the organ. It opened at the frænum. There was some appearance of scrotum, but no testes were perceptible. Menstruation took place regularly, but with great pain, the fluid passing through the urethra. During this period, the breasts—which were natural, and the size of a girl's of 14—became tender and swollen and she had at this time only a desire for copulation. The pubes was well covered with hair. Dr. Pue's impression was, that her inclinations were for the male. A very interesting case has likewise been described by Professor Mayer\* of Bonn. The mixed attributes of male and female were well marked. On the one hand, there was a testicle slightly atrophied, a penis and a prostate gland; on the other, a vagina and uterus, with its Fallopian tubes, and on the left side a body analogous to an ovary.

Cases like the above,—and we have such on the authority of Baillie, Verdier, Giraud, Ackermann, Handy, Sir E. Home, Pinel, Maret, Sue, Bouillaud, and others,—have led to the belief, that hermaphroditism is possible.<sup>b</sup> This is the opinion of Tiedemann, Meckel, and many other physiologists, but it does not rest on any observed examples. The varieties of these sexual vagaries are extremely numerous; and form occasionally the subject of medico-legal inquiry.

Instances of animals being brought forth, whose organs of generation are preternaturally formed, sometimes occur, and they also have been commonly called *hermaphrodites*; but such examples have been rarely investigated. Monstrous productions, having a mixture of the male and female organs, seem to occur only in neat cattle, and have been called *free-martins*. When a cow brings forth twin calves, one a male and the other apparently a female, the former always grows up to be a perfect bull, but the latter appears destitute of all sexual functions, and never propagates. This is the *free-martin*. It was the opinion of Mr. Hunter, that the free-martin never exhibits sexual propensities; but this has been controverted by Mr. Allnatt.<sup>c</sup>

\* Gazette Médicale de Paris, Sept. 24, 1836; and Philadelphia Med. Examiner, April 10, 1841, p. 232.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Simpson, art. Hermaphroditism, Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., vol. ii.; Marc, art. Hermaphrodisme, Dict. de Médecine, 2de édit. xv. 241, Paris, 1837; Beck, Med. Jurisprud. 6th edit., vol. i. Philad., 1838; Mr. Pilcher, Lancet, March 17, 1838, p. 915; and W. A. Guy, Principles of Forensic Medicine, part i. p. 36, Lond., 1843.

<sup>c</sup> London Medical Gazette for July 2d, 1836.

A clergyman of great respectability informed that gentleman, that he had bred a free-martin upon his estate, which had not only shown the natural desire for the male, but had actually admitted him—of course, ineffectually. Mr. Allnatt farther remarks, that he had seen, the day before, working in harness, a true, apparently female, adult free-martin, which occasionally manifested its male propensities in an intelligible manner. When the cows amongst which this free-martin is kept, exhibit their inclination for the male, the creature—unlike the spayed heifer or common ox—is peculiarly on the alert, and has been observed to leap the cows like the entire male. A gentleman of Mr. Allnatt's neighbourhood had a true free-martin, which had received the bull several times, but had never propagated. After death the animal was examined. Scarcely a vestige of uterus could be discovered. From Mr. Hunter's observations<sup>a</sup> it would seem, that in all the instances of free-martins, which he examined, no one had the complete organs of the male and female, but partly the one and partly the other; and, in all, the ovaria and testicles were too imperfect to perform their functions. In noticing this phenomenon, Sir Everard Home<sup>b</sup> remarks, that it may account for twins being most commonly of the same sex; "and when they are of different sexes," he adds, "it leads to inquire whether the female, when grown up, has not less of the true female character than other women, and is incapable of having children." "It is curious," says Sir Everard, "and in some measure to the purpose, that, in some countries, nurses and midwives have a prejudice, that such twins seldom breed." Dr. Burns, too,<sup>c</sup> states it to be a popular opinion, and he does not know any instance to discountenance it, that if twins be of different sexes the female is sterile. These remarks are signally unfortunate, and ought not to have been hastily hazarded, seeing that a slight examination would have exhibited, that there is no analogy between the free-martin and the females in question; and, more especially, as the suggestion accords with a popular prejudice, highly injurious to the prospects and painful to the feelings of all who are thus circumstanced. In the London Medical Repository,<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cribb, of Cambridge, England, has properly observed, that the external characters and anatomical conformation of the free-martin are totally unlike those of the human female. In external appearance, the free-martin differs considerably from the perfectly formed cow;—the head and neck, in particular, bearing a striking resemblance to those of the bull. Moreover, it is not true, that the free-martin cows never breed: Professor Simpson,<sup>e</sup> of Edinburgh, has referred to cases in which they were secund. Mr. Cribb has, however, brought forward most decisive evidence in favour of the fallacy of the popular prejudice, by the history of seven cases, which are of themselves sufficient to put the matter for ever at rest. Of these *seven* cases, which are all that he had ever known, of women, born under the circumstances in question, having been married,—*six* had children. The

<sup>a</sup> Animal Economy, edit. by Mr. Owen, London, 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Philosoph. Transactions for 1799; and Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, iii. 311, London, 1823.

<sup>c</sup> Principles of Midwifery, edit. of 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Sept. 1823, and *ibid.* 1827.

<sup>e</sup> Edinb. Med. and Sur. Journ., Jan., 1844, p. 109.

fullest and most satisfactory essay on this subject is, however, the one already referred to by Professor Simpson. By uniting together all the various cases, which he could collect, he found that he possessed the married history of 123 females born co-twins with males. The results, so far as they refer to this subject, are as follows: of 123 females born co-twins with males, 112 had families, and 11 had no issue, although married for several years. In other words, the marriages of the females, born under such circumstances, were infecund in the proportion of 1 in 10. From other investigations he deduced, that this proportion does not exceed the degree of unproductiveness of marriages in the general community; and from the whole of his inquiries he arrives at the following important conclusions. *First.* That in the human subject, females, born co-twins with males, are, when married, as likely to have children as any other females belonging to the general community. *Secondly.* That when they are married and become mothers, they are, in respect to the number of their children, as productive as other females; and *Thirdly.* That the same law of the fecundity of the female in opposite-sexed twins seems to hold good amongst all the uniparous domestic animals, with the exception of the cow alone.

It is certainly most strange that this exception should apply to the cow only; and that when she carries twins of the same sex—two males, or two females—they should be both in all cases perfectly formed in their sexual organization, and both be capable of propagating. The whole series of circumstances, when considered in conjunction with each other—as is well remarked by Professor Simpson—seems to form, in relation to the origin of malformations, one of the strangest and most inexplicable facts to be met with in the study of abnormal development.

The case of an orang-outang, described by Dr. Harlan,\* affords the nearest approach to a complete union of the sexes in the same individual, which has been recorded. It had ovaries, Fallopian tubes, uterus and vagina, and also testes, epididymis, vasa deferentia, and a highly erectile penis.

#### 1. PHYSIOLOGY OF GENERATION.

In man and the superior animals, in which each sex is possessed by a distinct individual, it is necessary, that there should be a union of the sexes, and that the fecundating fluid of the male should be conveyed within the appropriate organs of the female, in order that from the concourse of the matters furnished by both sexes a new individual may result. To this union we are incited by an imperious instinct, established within us for the preservation of the species, as the senses of hunger and thirst are placed within us for the preservation of the individual. This has been termed the *desire* or *instinct of reproduction*; and for wise purposes its gratification is attended with the most pleasurable feelings, which man or animals can experience. Prior to the period of puberty, or whilst the individual is incapable of procreation, this desire does not exist; but it suddenly makes its ap-

\* Medical and Physical Researches, p. 22, Philad. 1835.



pearance at puberty, persists vehemently during youth and the adult age, and disappears in advanced life, when procreation becomes again impracticable. It is strikingly exhibited in those animals, in which generation can only be effected at particular periods of the year, or whilst they are in *heat*;—as in the deer, during the *rutting* season.

The views which have been entertained, regarding the seat of this instinct—whether in the encephalon or genital organs—were considered under the head of the mental and moral manifestations. It was there stated, that Cabanis and Broussais make the internal impressions proceed from the genital organs, but to form a part of the psychology of the individual; and that Gall assigns an encephalic organ—the cerebellum—for its production, and ranks the instinct of reproduction amongst the primary faculties of the mind;—with what degree of truth, we have investigated elsewhere (vol. i. p. 321). In farther proof of the idea, which refers it to the encephalon, it may be remarked, that the instinct has been observed in those, who, owing to original malformation, have wanted the principal part of the genital organs, whilst it has continued in the case of eunuchs not castrated till after the age of puberty. In opposition to this view, it has been urged, that simple titillation of the organs will excite the desire. This, however, may be entirely dependent upon association, in which the brain is largely concerned. In many cases, the desire is produced through the agency of vision; when the brain must necessarily be first excited, and, through its influence, the generative apparatus. The cause of the desire has, by some, been ascribed to the presence of sperm, in the requisite quantity, in the vesiculæ seminales; but in answer to this, it is urged, that eunuchs, under the circumstances above mentioned, and females, in whom there is no spermatic secretion, have the desire. The fact is, we have no more precise knowledge of the nature of this instinct, than we have of any of the internal sensations or moral faculties. We know, however, that it exhibits itself in various degrees of intensity, and occasionally assumes an opposite character—constituting *anaphrodisia*.

a. *Copulation*.—In the union of the sexes, the part performed by the *male* is the introduction of the penis,—the organ for the conveyance of the sperm to the uterus,—and the excretion of that fluid, during its introduction. In the flaccid state of the organ this penetration is impracticable; it is first of all necessary, that under the excitement of the venereal desire, the organ should attain a necessary state of rigidity, which is termed *erection*. In this state the organ becomes enlarged, and raised towards the abdomen; its arteries beat forcibly; the veins become tumid; the skin more coloured, and the heat augmented. It becomes also of a triangular shape, and these changes are indicated by an indescribable feeling of pleasure. Erection is not dependent upon volition. At times, it manifests itself against the will; at others it refuses to obey it; yet it requires, apparently, the constant excitement of the encephalic organ concerned in its production;—the slightest distraction of the mind causing its cessation. The modest and retiring spouse is, at times, unable to consummate the marriage for nights, perhaps weeks; yet, he is only temporarily impotent; for the inclination and the consequent erection supervene sooner or later.

Pills of crumb of bread, and a recommendation to the individual not to approach his wife for a fortnight, whatever may be his desire, have, in almost all cases, removed the impotence!

The state of erection is not long maintained, except under unusual excitement; the organ soon returning to its ordinary flaccidity. Its cause is a congestion of blood in the erectile tissue of the corpora cavernosa, urethra, and glans. Swammerdamm and De Graaf cut off the penis of a dog during erection, and found the tissue gorged with blood, and that the organ returned to its flaccid condition, as the blood flowed from it. The same fact, according to Adelon,<sup>a</sup> has been observed in the human subject, when erection has continued till after death. Mr. Callaway,<sup>b</sup> of Guy's Hospital, London, has described the case of an individual, who, in a state of inebriation, had communication three times with his wife the same night, without the consequent collapse succeeding, although emission ensued each time. This condition persisted for sixteen days, notwithstanding the use of appropriate means: at this time, an opening was made with a lancet into the left crus of the penis, below the scrotum, and a large quantity of dark, grumous blood, with numerous small coagula, escaped. By pressing the penis, the corpora cavernosa were immediately emptied, and each side became flaccid,—the communication by the pecten or septum penis permitting the discharge of the contents of both corpora by the incision into the left crus. After recovery, the person remained quite impotent, the organ being incapable of erection, probably owing, as Mr. Callaway suggests, to the deposition of coagulable lymph in the cells of the corpora cavernosa preventing the admission of blood, and the consequent distension of the organ. Artificial erection can, likewise, be induced in the dead body by injections, so that but little doubt need exist, that the enlargement and rigidity of the penis, during erection, are caused by the larger quantity of blood sent into it. The great difficulty has been, to account for this increased flow. The older writers ascribed it to the compression of the internal pudic vein against the symphysis pubis, owing to the organ being raised towards the abdomen by the ischio-cavernosi muscles; and as the cavernous vein empties its blood into the internal pudic, stagnation of blood in the corpora cavernosa ought necessarily to result from such compression, and consequent distension of the organ; whilst the cavernous arteries, being firmer, could not yield to the compression, and would, therefore, continue to convey the blood to the penis. It is obvious, however, that here,—as in every case, where the erectile tissue is concerned,—the congestion must be of an active kind: the beating of the arteries and the coloration of the organ indicate this; and, besides, compression of the pudic vein cannot precede erection; it must, if it occur at all, be regarded rather as a consequence of erection than as its cause. The case of the female nipple affords us an instance of erectility, where no compression can be invoked, and where the distension must be caused by augmented flow of blood by the arteries. If the nipple be handled, particularly whilst the female is under voluptuous

<sup>a</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. citat. iv. 57.

<sup>b</sup> *London Medical Repository*, for April, 1834.

excitement, it will be found to enlarge, and to become rigid, or be in a true state of erection. The correct opinion is, that irritation of this erectile tissue is the first link in the chain of phenomena constituting erection. The feeling of pleasure is certainly experienced there, prior to, and during erection; and this irritation, like every other, solicits an increased flow of blood into the erectile tissue, which, by organization, is capable of considerable distension. The erectile tissues of the corpora cavernosa, and of the corpus spongiosum urethræ, and glans, are all concerned in the process; but in what precise manner, physiologists are not entirely agreed. Some have supposed, that the blood is effused into the cells, and is consequently out of the vessels. Another view, supported by some of the most eminent anatomists and physiologists, is, that the blood simply accumulates in the venous plexuses of the corpora cavernosa. Such seems to have been the opinion of Tiedemann, Stieglitz, and J. Müller,\* and of Cuvier, Chaussier, and Bécларd, from their injections; and the rapidity, with which erection disappears, favours the notion. The discovery of the helicine arteries of the penis by Professor Müller, described at page 356 of this volume, has led to the inference that the peculiar arrangement may be concerned in the function in question, but in what manner the circulation in the male organ or its erection is modified by them has not been appreciated:† Valentín, indeed,—as we have seen,—denies their existence.

It has been asked again, whether this accumulation of blood be, as we have remarked, an increased afflux by the arteries, or a diminished action of the veins; or these two states combined.‡ The last opinion is probably the most correct. The arteries first respond to the appeal; the organ is, at the same time, raised by the appropriate muscles; its tissue becomes distended, the plexus of veins turgid, and the return of blood impeded. In this way the organ acquires the rigidity necessary for penetrating the parts of the female. The friction, which then occurs, keeps up the voluptuous excitement, and the state of erection. This excitement is extended to the whole generative system; the secretion of the testicles is augmented; the sperm arrives in greater quantity in the vesiculæ seminales; the testicles are drawn up towards the abdominal rings by the contraction of the dartos and cremaster, so that the vas deferens is rendered shorter, and in the opinion of some, the sperm filling the excretory ducts of the testicle, is in this manner forced mechanically forwards towards the vesicles. When these have attained a certain degree of distension, they contract suddenly and powerfully, and the sperm is projected through the ejaculatory ducts into the urethra. At this period the pleasurable sensation is at its height. When the sperm reaches the urethra, the canal is thrown into the highest excitement; and the ischio-cavernosi and bulbo-cavernosi muscles, with the

\* Art. Erection, in *Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft.* xii. 460, Berlin, 1834.

† Wagner, *Elements of Physiology*, translated by R. Willis, p. 75, London, 1841. See, on the Causes of Erection, Krause in Müller's *Archiv.* H. i. 1837; and *London Med. Gazette*, for Aug. 1837.

‡ Chaussier and Adelon, in art. Erection, *Dict. des Sciences Médicales*, xi. 461, Berlin, 1834; also, Adelon's *Physiologie de l'Homme*, iv. 57.

transversi perinei, and levatores ani, are thrown into violent contraction; the two first holding the penis straight, and assisting the others in projecting the sperm along the urethra. By the agency of these muscles and of the proper muscular structure in the urethra, the fluid is expelled, not continuously, but in jets, as it seems to be sent into the urethra by the alternate contractions of the vesiculæ seminales. These muscular contractions are of a reflex character, being independent of the will, and incapable of being controlled by any exertion of it. They are induced, as in deglutition, by a special excitant,—the sperm in one case; the food in the other.

The quantity of sperm discharged varies materially according to the circumstances previously mentioned; its average has been estimated at about two drachms. Along with the true sperm, the fluids of the prostate and of the glands of Cowper are discharged; so as to constitute the semen as we meet with it. When the emission is accomplished, the penis gradually returns to its ordinary state of flaccidity; and it is usually impracticable, by any effort, to repeat the act without the intervention of a certain interval of repose, to enable the due quantity of sperm to collect in the spermatic vessels and vesicles. In some persons, however, the excitability is so great, and the secretion of sperm so ready, that little or no interval is required between the first and second acts.

This comprises the whole of the agency of the male in the function of gestation.

In man the emission of sperm is soon effected; but in certain animals it is a long process. In the dog, which has no vesiculæ seminales, the penis swells so much, during copulation, that it cannot be withdrawn until the emission of sperm removes the erection.

In the *female*, during copulation, the clitoris is in the same state of erection as the penis; as well as the spongy tissue lining more especially the entrance of the vagina; and it is in these parts, particularly in the clitoris, that pleasure is experienced during sexual desire, and during copulation. This feeling persists the whole time of coition, and ultimately attains its acme, as in the case of the male, but without any spermatic ejaculation. It is not owing to the contact of the male sperm,—for it frequently occurs before or after emission by the male, but is dependent upon some inappreciable modification in the female organs,—in the ovaries or Fallopian tubes, it is supposed by some physiologists. In most—if not in all—cases, an increased discharge suddenly takes place, during the orgasm, from the mucous follicles of the vagina and vulva, but chiefly from the glands of Duverney, the admixture of which with the male sperm is supposed to have some connexion with impregnation, and to be perhaps the vehicle for the fecundating principle of the sperm. After the kind of convulsive excitement into which the female is thrown, a sensation of languor and debility is experienced, as in the male, but not to the same extent,—and, in consequence of no spermatic emission taking place in her, she is capable of a renewal of intercourse more speedily than the male, and can better support its frequent repetition.

b. *Fecundation*.—An admixture having, in this manner, been

effected between the materials furnished by the male and those of the female,—after a fecundating copulation *conception* or *fecundation* results, and the rudiments of the new being are instantaneously constituted. The well-known fact, that, after the removal of the testicles, the individual is incapable of procreation although the rest of the genital organs may remain entire, is of itself sufficient to show, that the fecundating fluid is the secretion of those organs, and that this fluid is indispensable. Physiologists have not, however, been satisfied with this fact. Spallanzani<sup>a</sup> examined frogs with great attention, whilst in the act of copulation, both in and out of water; and he observed, that, at the moment when the female deposited her eggs, the male darted a transparent liquid through a tumid point which issued from its anus. This liquid moistened the eggs, and fecundated them. To be certain that it was the fecundating agent, he dressed the male in waxed taffeta breeches; when he found, that fecundation was prevented, and that sperm enough was contained in the breeches to be collected. This he took up by means of a camel's-hair pencil, and all the eggs which he touched with it were fecundated. Three grains of this sperm were sufficient to render a pound of water fecundating; and a drop of a solution which could not contain more than the 2,994,687,500th part of a grain was enough for the purpose. To diminish the objection, that the frog is too remote in organization from man to admit of any analogical deduction, Spallanzani took a spaniel bitch, which had engendered several times; shut her up some time before the period of *heat*, and waited until she exhibited evidences of being in that condition, which did not happen until after a fortnight's seclusion. He then injected into the vagina and uterus, by means of a common syringe warmed to 100° of Fahrenheit, nineteen grains of sperm obtained from a dog. Two days afterwards she ceased to be in heat, and, at the ordinary period, she brought forth three young ones, which not only resembled her but the dog from which the sperm had been obtained. This experiment has been repeated by Rossi, of Pisa, and by Buffolini, of Cesena, with similar results.<sup>b</sup> The success of an analogous experiment on the human species rests on the authority of John Hunter. He recommended an individual, affected with hypospadias, to inject his sperm by means of a warm syringe. His wife afterwards became pregnant.<sup>c</sup>

In some experiments on generation, Prévost and Dumas fecundated artificially the ova of the frog. Having expressed the fluid from several testicles, and diluted it with water, they placed the ova in it. These were observed to become tumid and developed; whilst other ova, placed in common water, merely swelled up, and in a few days became putrid. They observed, moreover, that the mucus, with which the ova are covered in the *oviduct*,—the part corresponding to the Fallopian tube in the mammalia,—assists in the absorption of the sperm, and in conducting it to the surface of the ovum; and that in

<sup>a</sup> Sur la Génération, par Senebier, Genève. 1783.

<sup>b</sup> Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, iv. 66, Paris, 1829; and Wagner, Elements of Physiology, by Dr. R. Willis, p. 68, Lond. 1841.

<sup>c</sup> Sir E. Home, Lect. on Comp. Anat. iii. 315; and Burdach's Physiologie, u. a. w., i. 506.

order to succeed in these artificial fecundations, the sperm must be diluted; if too much concentrated its action is less. They satisfied themselves likewise, that the chief part of the sperm penetrates as far as the ova, as animalcules could be detected moving in the mucus covering their surface, and these animalcules they conceive to be the active part of the sperm. It is not, however, universally admitted, that positive contact of sperm with the ovum is indispensable to fecundation. Some physiologists maintain, that the sperm proceeds no further than the upper part of the vagina; whence it is absorbed by the vessels of that canal, and conveyed through the circulation to the ovary. This is, however, the most improbable of all the views that have been indulged on this topic; for if such were the fact, impregnation ought to be effected as easily by injecting sperm into the blood-vessels,—the female being, at the time, in a state of voluptuous excitement. It has been directly overthrown, too, by the experiments of Dr. Blundell<sup>a</sup> on the rabbit, who found, that when the communication between the vagina and the uterus was cut off, impregnation could not be accomplished, although the animal admitted the male as often as fifty times, generally at intervals of two or three days or more. Yet, it is evident—Dr. Blundell remarks—that much of the male fluid must have been deposited in the vagina, and absorbed by veins or lymphatics.<sup>b</sup> Bischoff,<sup>c</sup> too, states, that he has frequently extirpated the uterus in rabbits, leaving the vagina and the ovaries with the tubes; and in no case was the animal fecundated after the operation, although it admitted the male freely.

Others have presumed, that when the sperm is thrown into the vagina, a *halitus* or *aura*—the *aura seminis*—escapes from it, makes its way to the ovary, and impregnates an ovum. Others, again, think, that the sperm is projected into the uterus, and that in this cavity it undergoes admixture with the germ furnished by the female; whilst a last class, with more probability in their favour, maintain that the sperm is thrown into the uterus, whence it passes through the Fallopian tube to the ovary, the fimbriated extremity of the tube, at the time, embracing the latter organ. The late Dr. Dewees<sup>d</sup> suggested, that after the sperm is deposited on the labia pudendi or in the vagina, it may be taken up by a set of vessels—which, he admitted, have never been seen in the human female—whose duty it is to convey the sperm to the ovary. This conjecture he conceives to have been in part confirmed by the discovery of ducts, leading from the ovary to the vagina, in the cow and sow, by Dr. Gartner, of Copenhagen. The objections that may be urged against his hypothesis, Dr. Dewees remarks, “he must leave to others.” We have no doubt, that his intimate acquaintance with the subject could have suggested many that are pertinent and cogent. It will be obvious, that if we admit the existence of the ducts described by Gartner, it by no means follows, that they are certainly inservient to the function in question.

<sup>a</sup> Principles and Practice of Obstetrics, Amer. edit. Washington, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> See the details of an experiment with a similar object by Dr. Harlan, Medical and Physical Researches, p. 637. Philad. 1835.

<sup>c</sup> Développement de l'Homme, &c. traduit par Jourdan, p. 20. Paris, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> A Compendious System of Midwifery, 7th edit. Philad. 1835.

Independently, too, of the objection that they have not been met wit, in the human female, it may be urged, that if we grant their existence there would seem to be no reason, why closure of the os uteri after impregnation, or interruption of the vulvo-uterine canal by division of the vagina—as in the experiments of Dr. Blundell on rabbits—or division of the Fallopian tubes, should prevent subsequent conception, in the first case during the existence of pregnancy; in the two last, for life. These vessels ought, in both cases, to continue to convey sperm to the ovary, and extra-uterine pregnancies or superfœtation ought to be constantly occurring.

MM. Prévost and Dumas,<sup>a</sup> and Dr. Ritchie,<sup>b</sup> are amongst the most recent writers, who maintain that fecundation takes place in the uterus, and the former gentlemen assign the following reasons for their belief. *First.* That in their experiments, they always found sperm in the cornua of the uterus, and they conceive it natural, that fecundation should be operated only where sperm is. *Secondly.* That in those animals, whose ova are not fecundated until after they have been laid, fecundation must necessarily be accomplished out of the ovary; and *Thirdly.* That in their experiments on artificial fecundation, they have never been able to fecundate ova taken from the ovary. In reply to the first of these positions it has been properly remarked by Adelon<sup>c</sup> that the evidence of MM. Prévost and Dumas, with regard to the presence of sperm elsewhere than in the uterus, is only of a negative character; and that, on the other hand, we have the positive testimony of physiologists in favour of its existence in the Fallopian tubes and ovary. Haller asserts, that he found it there; and MM. Prévost and Dumas afford us evidence against the position they have assumed respecting the seat of fecundation. They affirm, that on the first day after copulation, the sperm was discoverable in the cornua of the uterus, and that it was not until after the lapse of twenty-four hours, that it had attained the summits of the cornua. Once they detected it in the Fallopian tubes;—a circumstance which is inexplicable under the view, that fecundation is accomplished in the uterus. Leeuwenhoek and Hartsöker also found it in some cases in the Fallopian tube; and still more recently, Bischoff, Wagner,<sup>d</sup> and Dr. M. Barry,<sup>e</sup> have discovered spermatozoids in the fluid collected from the surface of the ovary, and within the capsular prolongations of the Fallopian tubes that enclose the ovaria; and recently, Dr. Barry<sup>f</sup> has found, in two cases, spermatozoids within the ovum of the rabbit taken from the Fallopian tube. They were within the thick transparent membrane—*zona pellucida*—brought with the ovum from the ovary.

In reply to the second argument, it may be remarked, that analo-

<sup>a</sup> *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, iii. 113.

<sup>b</sup> *Lond. Med. Gazette*, cited in *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, Jan. 1846, p. 187.

<sup>c</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 68. Paris, 1829.

<sup>d</sup> *Elements of Physiology*, translated by Dr. R. Willis, p. 66. Lond. 1841.

<sup>e</sup> *Philosophical Transactions* for 1839, p. 315; and Bischoff, *Développement de l'Homme*, &c., traduit par Jourdan, p. 23. Paris, 1823.

<sup>f</sup> *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, Dec. 8, 1842; and *Lond. Med. Gazette*, April 7, 1843, p. 73.

gies drawn from the inferior animals are frequently loose and unsatisfactory, and ought consequently to be received with caution. This is peculiarly one of these cases; for fecundation, in the example adduced, is always accomplished *out* of the body, and analogy might with equal propriety be invoked to prove, that in the human female fecundation must also be effected externally. In answer to the third negative position of MM. Prévost and Dumas, the positive experiments of Spallanzani may be cited, who succeeded in producing fecundation in ova that had been previously separated from the ovary.

The evidence that conception takes place in the ovary, appears to us convincing. Ovarian pregnancy offers irresistible proof of it. Of this, Mr. Stanley, of Bartholomew's Hospital, has given an instructive example;<sup>a</sup> and a still more extraordinary instance is related by Dr. Granville.<sup>b</sup> Other varieties of extra-uterine pregnancy are confirmative of the same position. At times, the fœtus is found in the cavity of the abdomen,—the ovum seeming to have escaped from the Fallopian tube when its fimbriated extremity grasped the ovary to

receive the ovum and convey it to the cavity of the uterus. At other times, the fœtus is developed in the Fallopian tube,—as in the marginal figure (Fig. 298),—some impediment having existed to the passage of the ovum from the ovarium to the uterus. This impediment can, be excited artificially, so as to give

Fig. 298.



Tubal Pregnancy.

rise to tubal pregnancy. Nuck applied a ligature around one of the cornua of the uterus of a bitch, three days after copulation; and he found, afterwards, two fœtuses arrested in the Fallopian tube between the ligature and the ovary. Von Baer<sup>c</sup> detected an ovule in its passage along the Fallopian tube in a bitch; and Raspail asserts that he once met with an ovule, still attached to the ovary, which contained an embryo.<sup>d</sup>

It is obvious, then, from these facts, either that fecundation occurs in the ovarium, or else that the ovum, when fecundated in the uterus, travels along the Fallopian tube to the ovarium, and from thence back again to the uterus, which is not probable.<sup>e</sup> It has been said, indeed, that ovarian and tubal pregnancies are exceptions to the rule; but no adequate evidence has been afforded of this. They certainly establish, that fecundation does take place in the ovary, and

<sup>a</sup> Medical Transactions, vol. vi.

<sup>b</sup> Philosophical Transactions for 1820.

<sup>c</sup> De Ovi Mammalium et Hominis Genesi, Lips. 1827.

<sup>d</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 262, Paris, 1833.

<sup>e</sup> Granville's Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, p. iii., Lond. 1834.



we are in want of positive, well-authenticated cases of its having been accomplished elsewhere.

But, to prevent impregnation, it is not even necessary that the ovaries should be removed. It is sufficient to deprive them of all immediate communication with the uterus, by simply dividing the Fallopian tubes. On this subject, Haighton<sup>a</sup> instituted numerous experiments, the result of which was, that after this operation a *foetus* was in no instance produced. The operation is much more simple than the ordinary method of spaying by the removal of the ovaries, and it has been successfully practised, at the recommendation of the author, on the farm of his friend Thomas Jefferson Randolph, Esq., of Virginia. Simple division of the Fallopian tubes does not take away the sexual desire, as Haighton supposed; for the ovaries are still existent; but if they be removed, all desire will be lost. A case is detailed of a natural defect of this kind in an adult woman, who had never exhibited the slightest desire for commerce with the male, and had never menstruated. On dissection, the ovaria were found deficient; and the uterus was not larger than an infant's.<sup>b</sup> Dr. Blundell has proposed the division of the tubes, and even the removal of a small portion of them, so as to render them completely impervious, when the pelvis is so contracted as not to admit of the birth of a living child in the seventh month; and he goes so far as to affirm, that the operation is much less dangerous than delivery by perforating the head, when the pelvis is greatly contracted.

We have already remarked, that sperm has been found in the cavity of the uterus, and even in the Fallopian tubes. Fabricius ab Acquapendente maintained that it could not be detected there; and Harvey contended, that in the case of the cow, whose vagina is very long, as well as in numerous other animals, the sperm cannot possibly reach the uterus, and that there is no reason for supposing that it ever does. In addition, however, to the facts already cited, we may remark, that Mr. John Hunter<sup>c</sup> killed a bitch in the act of copulation, and found the semen in the cavity of the uterus, conveyed thither, in his opinion, *per saltum*. Ruysch<sup>d</sup> discovered it in the uterus of a woman taken in adultery by her husband and killed by him; and Haller<sup>e</sup> in the uterus of a sheep killed forty-five minutes after copulation. An interesting case, in relation to this point, has been published by Dr. H. Bond,<sup>f</sup> of Philadelphia. A young female, after having passed a part of the night with a male friend, destroyed herself early in the morning, by taking laudanum. On cutting open the uterus, it was found to be thickly coated with a substance having the appearance, and the strong peculiar odour, of the sperm. One of the Fallopian tubes was laid open, and found to contain, apparently, the same matter, but it was not ascertained whether it possessed the *semina*.

<sup>a</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1797.

<sup>b</sup> Philosoph. Transactions for 1805.

<sup>c</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1817.

<sup>d</sup> Thesaur. Anat. iv.; and Adversaria Anat. Med.-chirurg., Dec. 1.

<sup>e</sup> Element. Physiol., viii. 22.

<sup>f</sup> American Journal of the Medical Sciences, No. xxvi., for February, 1834, p. 409

odour. More recently, Bischoff,<sup>a</sup> in his investigations, found few or no spermatozooids in the vagina of bitches and rabbits, after coitus, but the uterus was quite full of them.

Blumenbach<sup>b</sup> supposes, that, during the venereal orgasm, the uterus sucks in the sperm. It is impossible to explain the mode in which this is accomplished, but the fact of the entrance of the fluid into the uterus, and even as far as the ovarium, seems unquestionable. This Dr. Blundell<sup>c</sup> admits, but he is disposed to think, that, in general, the rudiments from the mother, and the fecundating fluid meet in the uterus; as, in his experiments on rabbits, he found—from the formation of corpora lutea, the developement of the uterus, and the accumulation of water in the uterine cavity—that the rudiments may come down into the uterus, without a previous contact of the semen. His experiments, however, appear to us to prove nothing more, than that infecund ova may be discharged from the ovarium, and that if they are prevented from passing externally, owing to closure of the the vagina or cervix uteri, the uterine phenomena alluded to may occur. They do not invalidate the arguments already adduced to show that the ovum must be fecundated in the ovarium. It has been suggested by Dr. Bostock,<sup>d</sup> that the ciliary motions, which have been observed by Purkinje, Valentin,<sup>e</sup> and others, in the mucous membranes of the air-passages, and which have been likewise detected in the generative organs, and whose office appears to be to propel substances along them, may have something to do with the propulsion of the sperm towards the ovary; and J. Müller<sup>f</sup> affirms, that “the mode in which the semen is conducted so far through the female generative organs, is no longer a problem requiring solution; for the discovery of the ciliary motion affords a solution of it.” Dr. Sharpey,<sup>g</sup> however, remarks, that the direction of these motions in those organs, is from within outwards, so that he conceives it to be difficult to assign any other office to them than that of conveying outwards the secretion of the membrane, unless we suppose that they also bring down the ovum into the uterus. Prof. Wagner<sup>h</sup> considers that the sperm reaches the ovary, partly by the ciliary motions, which begin in the cervix uteri,—partly by the contractions of the tubes, and partly by the motility of the spermatozooids; whilst Dr. Carpenter<sup>i</sup> thinks it not unreasonable to suppose that the last is the sole power; and that the transit of the spermatozooids from the vagina to the ovaries is effected by the same kind of action as that which causes them to tra-

<sup>a</sup> *Entwicklungsgeschichte des Kaninchen-Eies*, u. s. w., Leipz. 1842; cited by Mr. T. W. Jones, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Oct. 1843, p. 513; and *op. cit.*

<sup>b</sup> *Elements of Physiology*, by Elliotson, 4th edit., p. 467, Lond. 1828. See, also, Günther, *Untersuchungen und Erfahrungen*, Hannover, 1837, cited by Bischoff.

<sup>c</sup> *Principles, &c., of Obstetrics*, Amer. edit., p. 56, Washington, 1834.

<sup>d</sup> *Physiology*, 3d edit., p. 654, Lond. 1836.

<sup>e</sup> Müller's *Archiv.*, B. i.; and translation in *Dublin Journal of Med. Science*, May, 1835; and in *Edinb. New Philos. Journal*, for July, 1835.

<sup>f</sup> *Elements of Physiology*, translated by Baly, p. 1491, Lond. 1842.

<sup>g</sup> *Art. Cilia*, *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiology*, part vii., p. 633, July, 1836. See, also, Müller, *Elements of Physiology*, by Baly, p. 857, Lond. 1838; Todd and Bowman, *Physiological Anat. and Physiol. of Man.*, p. 62, Lond. 1843; and vol. i., p. 472 of this work.

<sup>h</sup> *Elements of Physiology*, translated by R. Willis, part i., p. 72, Lond. 1841.

<sup>i</sup> *Principles of Human Physiology*, 2d edit., p. 689, Lond. 1844; and *Manual or Elements of Physiology*, Amer. edit., p. 456, Philad. 1846.

verse the field of the microscope. We have seen, however, that not only the spermatozooids, but the sperm itself, have been found in the uterus, and in the Fallopian tubes. Future observations may shed farther light on this subject.

When treating of the views recently embraced by many physiologists, as to the ovarian cause of menstruation, it was stated, that conception has been believed to be more easy during menstruation, or immediately before or immediately after. Some, indeed, have asserted, in the absence of adequate numerical evidence, the dangerous doctrine, that the aptitude scarcely exists at the middle of the interval between two menstrual periods.<sup>a</sup> The generality of those physiologists believe, that it is not necessary for the fecundating material of the male to come in contact with the ovum in the ovarium—although in the vegetable, which is often taken as the analogue, such contact is known to be indispensable. They believe, that after an ovum has escaped, it may meet and be acted upon by the male sperm, either in the Fallopian tubes or the uterus; and some think, notwithstanding the facts already mentioned of ovarian pregnancy, and of spermatozooids having been found in the ovary, that neither the sperm nor any part of it can reach the ovary, and therefore that impregnation can never be effected in it.<sup>b</sup> A recent writer<sup>c</sup> considers it most probable, that in the human female, as well as in the females of animals, the desire for sexual intercourse is greatest at the menstrual period “or heat,” especially towards the decline of the discharge; at which latter period, he says, from observation on animals, it is proved, that ova are usually discharged. Bitches, he says, are generally observed to be languid, and to refuse the male during the first few days of heat; but after this they become lively, and readily admit of being lined; and analogous to this is the indisposition of the human female during the early part of each menstrual period, and previous to the discharge becoming fully established. It could be understood then, that a fecundating copulation might occur in the last days of menstruation, and perhaps soon after its cessation, through the male sperm coming in contact with an ovum separated from the ovary, and in the Fallopian tubes, or uterus;—for we are told authoritatively, by M. Pouchet, it is a “law,” that, in the mammalia, fecundation never occurs unless the emission of ova coincides with the presence of seminal fluid, although the menstrual secretion itself—it might be presumed—would tend rather to throw out of the body the fecundating material; but if, as elsewhere said, and generally believed, fecundation *often* occurs a short time before menstruation, then the ovum could not have left the ovary,—if the facts above cited be correct,—and impregnation must have been effected in it. In the existing state of knowledge, then, this organ appears to be the seat of fecundation,—although the author is not disposed to assert, that it *cannot* be accomplished at the time of or soon after the escape of the ovum from the ovarium.

Granting, then, that conception occurs in the ovarium, and that sperm is projected into the uterus, with or without the actions refer-

<sup>a</sup> Pouchet, *Théorie positive de la Fécondation des Mammifères*, Paris, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Pouchet, *Bulletin des Académies*, Janv. 1845, p. 64.

<sup>c</sup> Mr. Girdwood, in *London Lancet*, Dec. 7 and 14, 1844.

red to; in what manner does the sperm exert its fecundating agency on the ovarium? It is manifestly impossible, that the force of projection from the male can propel it, not only as far as the cornua of the uterus, but also through the narrow media of communication between the uterus and ovary by the Fallopian tubes. This difficulty suggested the idea of the *aura seminis* or *aura seminalis*, which, it was supposed, might readily pass into the uterus, and through the tubes to the ovary. Haighton, indeed, embraced an opinion more obscure than this, believing, that the semen penetrates no farther than the uterus, and acts upon the ovaria by sympathy; and this obscure view has been adopted by some distinguished individuals.

In opposition to the notion of the *aura seminis*, we have some striking facts and experiments. In all those animals, in which fecundation is accomplished out of the body, direct contact of the sperm appears necessary. Spallanzani, and MM. Prévost and Dumas found, in their experiments on artificial fecundation, that they were always unsuccessful when they simply subjected the ova to the emanation from the sperm. Spallanzani took two watch-glasses, capable of being fitted to each other, the concave surface of the one being opposed to that of the other. Into the lower he put ten or twelve grains of sperm, and into the upper about twenty ova. In the course of a few hours the sperm had evaporated, so that the ova were moistened by it; yet they were not fecundated, but fecundation was readily accomplished by touching them with the sperm that remained in the lower glass. A similar experiment was performed by MM. Prévost and Dumas. They prepared about an ounce and a half of a fecundating fluid from the expressed humour of twelve testicles, and as many vesiculæ seminales. With two and a half drachms of this fluid they fecundated more than two hundred ova. The remainder of this fluid was put into a small retort, to which an adopter was attached. In this forty ova were placed, ten of which occupied the hollowest part, whilst the rest were placed near the beak of the retort. The apparatus was put under the receiver of an air-pump, and air sufficient was withdrawn to diminish the pressure of the atmosphere one half. The rays of the sun were now directed upon the body of the retort, until the temperature within rose to about 90°; and after the lapse of four hours, the experiment was stopped, when the following were the results. The eggs at the bottom of the adopter, were bathed with a transparent fluid, the product of distillation. They had become tumid, as, in pure water, but had undergone no developement. The eggs near the beak of the retort were similarly circumstanced, but all were readily fecundated by the thick sperm which remained at the bottom of the retort. No aura, no emanation from the sperm, consequently, appeared to be capable of impregnating the ova. Absolute contact was indispensable.\* This is probably the case with the human female, and if so, the sperm must proceed from the uterus along the Fallopian tube to the ovarium.<sup>b</sup> The common opinion is,

\* Rudolphi, art. *Aura Seminalis*, in *Encyclopæd. Wörterbuch der Medicinisch. Wissenschaft*, B. iv. s. 452, Berlin, 1830; and Hüter, art. *Empfangniss*, *ibid.*, x. 628, Berlin 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Allen Thomson, art. *Generation*, in *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.*, part xiii. p. 462, Feb. 1838.

that during the intense excitement at the time of copulation, the tube is raised, and its digitated extremity applied to the ovarium. The sperm then proceeds along it,—in what manner impelled we know not,—and attains the ovary. According to Blundell and others, during the time of intercourse, the whole of the tube is in a state of spontaneous movement. Cruikshank pithed a female rabbit, when in heat, and examined the uterine system very minutely. The external and internal parts of generation were found black with blood; the Fallopian tubes were twisted like writhing worms, and exhibited a very vivid peristaltic motion; and the fimbriæ embraced the ovaria—like fingers laying hold of an object—so closely and so firmly as to require some force, and even slight laceration to disengage them. Haller states, that by injecting the vessels of the tube in the dead body, it assumed this kind of action. De Graaf, too, affirms, that he has found the fimbriated extremity adhering to the ovary, twenty-seven hours after copulation; and Magendie, that he has seen the extremity of the tube applied to a vesicle.

As excitement of some form would appear to be necessary to cause the digitated extremity of the Fallopian tube to embrace the ovary, it would seem probable, that a female could not be impregnated without some consciousness of the sexual union. This may be imperfect, as during sleep, or when in a state of stupor—either from spirituous liquors or narcotics—but still some impression must be made in order that fecundation may take place. It would not seem to be necessary, however, that the excitement should be venereal, or perhaps appreciated by the brain, inasmuch as when infecund ova pass from the ovaries into the tubes, as during menstruation, the same application of the fringed extremities of the tubes to the ovary probably takes place. This may be owing to a reflex action commencing in the uterus or ovary.

As the aura seminis appears to be insufficient for impregnation, it is obviously a matter of moment, that the sperm should be projected as high up into the vagina as possible. It has been often observed, that where the orifice of the urethra does not open at the extremity of the glans, but beneath the penis, or at some distance from the point, the individual has been rendered less capable of procreation. In two cases, that fell under the care of the author, the urethra was opened opposite the corona glandis by a sloughing syphilitic sore, and the aperture continued, in spite of every effort to the contrary. The individuals were married, and the fathers of three or four children; but after this occurrence they had no increase of their families. Many medico-legal writers have considered, that when the urethra terminates at another than its natural situation, impotence is the necessary result,—and that although copulation may be effected, impregnation is impracticable. Zacchias,<sup>a</sup> however, gives a case positively to the contrary. Belloc,<sup>b</sup> too, asserts, that he knew of a person, in whom the orifice of the urethra terminated at the root of the frænum, who had four children that resembled the father, two having the same malfor-

<sup>a</sup> *Questiones Medico-Legales*, Lugd. 1674.

<sup>b</sup> *Cours de Médecine Légale*, p. 50, Paris, 1819.

mation; and Dr. Francis refers to the case of an inhabitant of New York, who, under similar circumstances, had two children. Many such cases, are, indeed, on record.\* We cannot, therefore, regard it as an absolute cause of impotence, but the inference is just, that if the semen be not projected far up into the vagina, and in the direction of the os uteri, impregnation is not likely to be accomplished; a fact, which it might be of moment to bear in mind, where the rapid succession of children is an evil of magnitude. Yet, notwithstanding this weight of evidence, it has been affirmed by Professor Heim,<sup>b</sup> that impregnation may take place by the simple contact of the sperm with the lower part of the abdomen. The answer to this view, by M. D'Outrepoint,<sup>c</sup> appears, however, overwhelming. Heim relies on statements made by the parties that no penetration existed; but D'Outrepoint properly observes, that whenever this has been alleged in a case of pregnancy, he has found, when the parties were strictly questioned, that one or both of them admitted, that the male organ *might* have been in the vagina, or at least within the vulva.

The part, then, to which the sperm is applied is the ovary, and probably, according to Bischoff, the liquor sanguinis is the substance that passes through the parietes of the follicle by imbibition, in order to reach the ovum. Mr. T. W. Jones states, that although he is not prepared to deny this; yet when he takes into consideration all the evidence on the subject, he is of opinion, that there is no proof, that fecundation takes place until the ovum has escaped from the Graafian follicle, and comes into direct contact with the sperm.<sup>d</sup>

Let us now inquire into the changes experienced by this body after a fecundating copulation. Fabricius ab Acquapendente,<sup>e</sup> having killed hens a short time after they had been trodden, examined their ovaries, and observed,—amongst the small yellow, round granula, arranged racemiferously, which constitute those organs,—one having a small spot, in which vessels had become developed. This increased in size, and was afterwards detached, and received by the oviduct; becoming covered, in its passage through that tortuous canal and the cloaca, by particular layers, especially by the calcareous envelope; and being ultimately extruded in the form of an egg. Harvey,<sup>f</sup> in his experiments on the doe, made similar observations. He affirms, positively, that the ovary furnishes an ovum, and that the only difference, which exists amongst animals in this respect, is, that in some the ovum is hatched after having been laid, whilst in others it is deposited in a reservoir—a womb—where it undergoes successive changes. De Graaf<sup>g</sup> instituted several experiments on rabbits, for the purpose of detecting the series of changes in the organs from

\* Beck's Elements of Medical Jurisprudence, 6th edit. p. 71, Philad. 1838; and Traill's Outlines of a Course of Lectures on Med. Jurisprudence, p. 26, Edinb. 1840, or American edition, by the author, Philad. 1841; and W. A. Guy, Principles of Forensic Medicine, Part i. p. 44, Lond. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Wochenschrift für die Gesamnte Heilkunde; and Gazette Médicale, Sept. 26, 1836.

<sup>c</sup> Neue Zeitschrift für Geburtshunde, von Busch, d'Outrepoint und Ritgen, B. iv. H. ii., Berlin, 1836; or Dunglison's Amer. Med. Intelligence, p. 275, Nov. 1, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> Report on the Ovum of Man and the Mammifera, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1843, p. 525.

<sup>e</sup> De Generatione, p. 228.

<sup>f</sup> Opera., Lips.

<sup>g</sup> Tom. i. 310.

conception till delivery. Half an hour after copulation, no alteration was perceptible, except that the cornua of the uterus appeared a little redder than usual. In six hours, the coverings of the ovarian vesicles or vesicles of De Graaf seemed reddish. At the expiration of a day from conception, three vesicles in one of the ovaries, and five in the other, appeared changed, having become opaque and reddish. After twenty-seven, forty, and fifty hours, the cornua of the uterus and the tubes were very red, and one of the tubes had laid hold of the ovary; a vesicle was in the tube, and two in the right cornu of the uterus. These vesicles were as large as mustard seed. They were formed of two membranes, and were filled by a limpid fluid. On the fourth day, the ovary contained only a species of envelope, called, by De Graaf, a *follicle*; this appeared to be the capsule, which had contained the ovum. The ovum itself was in the cavity of the uterus, had augmented in size, and its two envelopes were very distinct. Here it remained loose until the seventh day, when it formed an adhesion to the uterus. On the ninth day, De Graaf observed a small opaque point, a kind of cloud, in the transparent fluid that filled the ovum. On the tenth day, this point had the shape of a small worm. On the eleventh, the embryo was clearly perceptible; and from this period, it underwent its full development, until the thirty-first day, when delivery took place. Malpighi<sup>a</sup> and Vallisnieri<sup>b</sup> also observed, in their experiments, that after a fecundating copulation, a body was developed at the surface of the ovary, which subsequently burst, and suffered a smaller body to escape. This was laid hold of by the tube, and conveyed by it to the uterus. It is not, however, universally admitted, that this body is the impregnated ovum; some affirming, that it is a sperm similar to that of the male; and others, that it is an amorphous substance, which, after successive developments, becomes the new individual.<sup>c</sup> Haller exposed the females of sheep and of other animals to the males on the same day, and killed them at different periods after copulation, for the purpose of detecting the whole series of changes by which the vesicle is detached from the ovary and conveyed to the uterus. Half an hour after copulation, one of the vesicles of the ovary appeared to be prominent; to have on its convexity a red, bloody spot, and to be about to break; in an hour or more, the vesicle gave way, and its interior seemed bleeding and inflamed. What remained of the vesicle in the ovary, and appeared to be its envelope, gradually became inspissated, and converted into a body of a yellowish colour, to which Haller gave the name *corpus luteum*. The cleft, by which the vesicle escaped, was observable for some time, but, about the eighth day, it disappeared. On the twelfth day, the corpus luteum became pale and began to diminish in size. This it continued to do until the end of gestation; and ultimately became a small, hard, yellowish or blackish substance, which could always be distinguished in the ovarium, by the cicatrix left by it. Its size was greater, the nearer the examination was made to the

<sup>a</sup> De Formatione Pulli in Ovo, Lond. 1673; and De Ovo Incubato, Lond. 1686.

<sup>b</sup> Istoria della Generazione del l'Uomo, Discorsi Academ. iv. Venez. 1722-1726.

<sup>c</sup> Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, iv. 74.

period of conception. In a bitch, for example, on the tenth day, it was half the size of the ovary; yet it proceeded, in that case, from one vesicle only. In multiparous animals, as many *corpora lutea* existed as foetuses.

The experiments of Haller<sup>a</sup> have been frequently repeated and with similar results. Magendie,<sup>b</sup> whose trials were made on bitches, observed, that the largest vesicles of the ovary were greatly augmented in size, thirty hours after copulation; and that the tissue of the ovary surrounding them had acquired greater consistence, had changed colour, and become of a yellowish-gray. This part was the *corpus luteum*. It, as well as the vesicles, increased for the next three or four days; and seemed to contain, in its areolæ, a white, opaque fluid, similar to milk. The vesicles now successively ruptured the external coat of the ovary, and passed to the surface of the organ, still adhering to it, however, by one side. Their size was sometimes that of a common hazelnut, but no germ was perceptible in them. The surface was smooth, and the interior filled with fluid.\* Whilst they were passing to the uterus, the corpus luteum remained in the ovary, and underwent the changes referred to by Haller. In similar experiments, instituted by MM. Prévost and Dumas,<sup>c</sup> no change was perceptible in the ovary during the first day after fecundation; but, on the second day, several vesicles enlarged, and continued to do so for the next four or five days, so that from being two or three millimètres in diameter, they attained a diameter of eight. From the sixth to the eighth day, the vesicles burst, and allowed an ovule to emerge, which often escaped observation, owing to its not being more than half a millimètre in diameter, but was clearly seen by MM. Prévost and Dumas by the aid of the microscope. This part they termed *ovule*, in contradistinction to that developed in the ovary, which they called *vesicle*. The latter had the appearance, at its surface, of a bloody cleft, into which a probe might be passed; and in this way it could be shown, that the vesicle had an interior cavity, which was the void space left by the ovule after its escape from the ovarium into the Fallopian tube. On the eighth day, in the bitch, the ovule passed into the uterus. All the ovules did not, however, enter that cavity at the same time:—an interval of three or four days sometimes occurring between them. When they attained the uterus, they were at first free and floating; and if examined with a microscope magnifying twelve diameters, they seemed to consist of a small vesicle, filled with an albuminous, transparent fluid. If examined in water, their upper surface had a mammiform appearance, with a white spot on the side. This was the *cicatricula*. These ovules speedily augmented in size, and, on the twelfth day, foetuses could be recognised in them.

Similar experiments, with like results, have been made by Von Baer,<sup>d</sup> Seiler,<sup>e</sup> and others; and much minute attention has been paid

<sup>a</sup> Element. Physiologia, xxix.

<sup>b</sup> Précis de Physiologie, édit. citat. ii. 534.

<sup>c</sup> Annales des Sciences Naturelles, iii. 135.

<sup>d</sup> De Ovo Mammalium, &c. Epist. Lips. 1827.

<sup>e</sup> Das Ei und Die Gebärmutter des Menschen, Dresd. 1832; Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, Th. ii. Leipz. 1828; and Purkinje, art. Ei, in Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch. x. 107, Berlin, 1834.



to the subject by recent histologists,—by Wagner, Barry, Bischoff, and T. W. Jones more especially. The subject, however, is altogether in a transition state; and it is difficult to say positively what is the condition of the ovum from the period *post coitum* until it leaves the ovary. After the intercourse of the sexes, an increased flow of blood takes place to the ovaries; the vascular membrane of the Graafian vesicle enlarges; the granules, mingled with its contents, become greatly developed, and changed; and thickening and general increase of its walls, particularly of the base and sides, supervene; the ovum and other contents of the follicle are by this pressed forwards, or against that aspect of the follicle, which is in contact with the peritoneum, and which now becomes thinner and thinner, and finally bursts, so that the ovum escapes, and a cavity is left in the ovary, which is soon obliterated by the growth on all sides of the inner membrane of the follicle; a reddish, fleshy-looking mass sprouts from the walls towards the shrinking cavity, and the rent by which the ovum had escaped is finally closed. The follicle, thus altered, constitutes the *corpus luteum*—to be described presently. Such is the description of Wagner.\*

From the above facts, then, we may conclude, that the sperm excites the vesicles in the ovaries to developement; that the ova, within the germinal part, burst their covering, are laid hold of by the Fallopian tube, and conveyed to the uterus, where they remain during the period of gestation.

In the passage of the ova along the Fallopian tube it has generally been believed that they experience but little change. They carry off, according to Wagner,<sup>b</sup> a small portion of the granular stratum of the vesicle with them, which appears hanging to them at first as an irregular, ragged discoidal appendage; but this is soon detached. The ovum gains a little in size; but there is still no trace of any special spot where the embryo arises. It would seem, however, from the researches of British embryologists, that the outer membrane of the ovum, which it acquired in the ovary, becomes swoln with moisture in the tube, and assumes the appearance of a thick, gelatinous-looking membrane—the proper chorion; and by and by, the zona pellucida having disappeared, the newly formed chorion comes to be the only investment of the yolk.<sup>c</sup> All the observations on the ovum in the Fallopian tubes have, however, been made on animals. Of the human ovum whilst in these tubes, nothing is known.<sup>d</sup>

The exact time, required by the ovum or ova to make their way into the uterus, has not been accurately determined. Cruikshank<sup>e</sup> found, that in rabbits forty-eight hours were necessary. Haighton<sup>f</sup> divided one of the Fallopian tubes in a rabbit; and, having exposed the animal to the male, he observed that gestation occurred only on the sound side. On making this section after copulation, he found, that if it were executed within the two first days, the descent of the

\* Elements of Physiology, translated by R. Willis, p. 136, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> R. Willis, *ibid.* p. 138.

<sup>c</sup> *Ibid.* p. 142.

<sup>d</sup> T. W. Jones, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1843, p. 542.

<sup>e</sup> Philosoph. Transactions, for 1797.

<sup>f</sup> *Ibid.* lxxxvii. 304.

ovules was prevented; but if it were delayed for sixty hours, the ovules had passed through the tube and were in the cavity of the uterus. A case, too, is quoted by writers on this subject, on the authority of a surgeon named Bussières, who observed an ovoid sac, about the size of a hazelnut and containing an embryo, half in the Fallopian tube and half adherent to the ovary.<sup>a</sup> The minuteness of the calibre of the Fallopian tube is not as great a stumbling-block in the way of understanding how this passage is effected, as might appear at first sight. The duct is, doubtless, extremely small in the ordinary state; but it admits of considerable dilatation. Magendie<sup>b</sup> asserts, that he once found it half an inch in diameter. Moreover, the size of the ovum, as we have just seen, is only  $\frac{1}{160}$ th part of an inch.

The period that elapses between a fecundating copulation and the passage of the ovum from the ovarium to the uterus, is different in different animals. In the sheep it occurs, according to Haller,<sup>c</sup> and Kuhlemann<sup>d</sup> on the seventeenth day. In rabbits, it is uncertain, but occurs generally on the third or fourth day after copulation;<sup>e</sup> in bitches on the fifth, according to some, but not till after the lapse of ten or twelve days, according to others;<sup>f</sup> and in the human female, perhaps about the same time; yet Mr. Burns infers from analogical evidence, that we should be more justified in the belief, that the ovum, in the human female, does not enter the uterus until at least three weeks after conception.<sup>g</sup> Maygrier refers to a case of abortion twelve days after copulation; the abortment consisting of a vesicle, shaggy on its surface and filled by a transparent fluid. One of the most instructive cases that we possess on this subject is given by Sir Everard Home,<sup>h</sup> and although, as Dr. Granville<sup>i</sup> has remarked, it has lately been the fashion to doubt the accuracy of the case, or to esteem it morbid, there is reason to believe it correct, from the circumstance of Mr. Bauer's microscopic examination of the ovulum, and description of its structure corresponding with the more recent discoveries of Professor Boer. A servant-maid, twenty-one years of age, had been courted by an officer, who had promised her marriage, in order that he might more easily accomplish his wishes. She was but little in the habit of leaving home, and had not done so for several days, when she requested a fellow-servant to remain in the house, as she was desirous of calling upon a friend, and should be detained some time. This was on the 7th of January, 1817. After an absence of several hours, she returned with a pair of new corsets, and other

<sup>a</sup> Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. cit. iv. 78.

<sup>b</sup> *Précis*, &c. edit. cit. p. 535.

<sup>c</sup> *Element. Physiol.* viii. 59.

<sup>d</sup> *Observ. quædam circa Negotium Generationis in Ovis fact.* Gotting. 1753.

<sup>e</sup> *Recherches sur la Génération des Mammifères par Coste, suivies de Recherches sur la Formation des Embryons*, par Delpèch et Coste. Paris, 1834.

<sup>f</sup> Wagner, *Elements of Physiology*, by Willis, p. 137. Lond. 1841.

<sup>g</sup> *The Principles of Midwifery*, &c., 3d edit. p. 132. Lond. 1814.

<sup>h</sup> *Philosophical Transactions for 1807*, p. 252; and *Lectures on Comparative Anatomy*, iii. 288. Lond. 1823.

<sup>i</sup> *Graphic Illustrations of Abortion*, &c., p. 7. Lond. 1834.

<sup>j</sup> Weber's *Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie*, iv. 465. Braunschweig, 1832; Dr. Allen Thomson, in *Art. Generation*, *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.*, part xiii. p. 454, Feb. 1838; and Dr. John Davy, *Researches, Physiological and Anatomical*, Duglison's American Medical Library edition, p. 379. Philad. 1840.

articles of dress which she had purchased. In the evening she got one of the maidservants to assist her in trying on the corsets. In the act of lacing them, she complained of considerable general indisposition, which disappeared on taking a little brandy. Next day, she was much indisposed. This was attributed to the catamenia not having made their appearance, although the period had arrived. On the following day, there was a wildness in her manner, and she appeared to suffer great mental distress. Fever supervened, which confined her to her bed. On the 13th, she had an epileptic fit, followed by delirium, which continued till the 15th, when she expired in the forenoon. On making inquiries of her fellow-servants, many circumstances were mentioned which rendered it highly probable, that on the morning of the 7th, when she was immediately on the point of menstruating, her lover had succeeded in gratifying his desires; and that she had become pregnant on that day, so that, when she died, she was in the seventh or eighth day of impregnation. Dissection showed the uterus to be much larger than in the virgin state, and considerably more vascular. On accurately observing the right ovarium, in company with Mr. Clift, Sir Everard noticed, upon the most prominent part of its outer surface, a small ragged orifice. This induced him to make a longitudinal incision in a line close to this orifice, when a canal was found leading to a cavity filled with coagulated blood, and surrounded by a narrow yellow margin, in the structure of which the lines had a zigzag appearance. The cavity of the uterus was then opened, by making an incision through the coats from each angle; and from the point where these incisions met, a third incision was continued down through the os uteri to the vagina. The os uteri was found completely blocked up by a plug of mucus, so that nothing could have escaped by the vagina; the orifices leading to the Fallopian tubes were both open, and the inner surface of the cavity of the uterus was composed of a beautiful efflorescence of coagulable lymph resembling the most delicate moss. By attentive examination, Sir Everard discovered a small, spherical, transparent body concealed in this efflorescence, which was the impregnated ovum. This was submitted to the microscopic investigations of Mr. Bauer, who made various drawings of it, and detected two projecting points, which were considered to mark out, even at this early period, and before the ovum was attached to the uterus, the seat of the brain and spinal marrow. [?] This case shows, that an ovum had left the ovarium, and that it was in the interior of the uterus, prior to the seventh or eighth day after impregnation. Weber and Von Baer have each recorded a case in which there was an opportunity for examining the embryo, probably eight days after a fecundating copulation; but no ovum was detected either in the uterus or tubes.

On comparing the degree of advancement of the fœtus in the ovum, described by different observers, with that of the fœtus in the dog, cat, and sheep, at known periods, Dr. Allen Thomson\* hazards the opinion, that the human ovum does not arrive in the uterus before the eleventh or twelfth day after conception:—Valentin, indeed, thinks

\* Art. Generation, in *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.*, part xlii. p. 454, Feb. 1838.

the twelfth or fourteenth day. From this discrepancy, amongst observers, it is manifest that our knowledge on the matter is by no means definite.

But, it has been asked, is it a mere matter of chance, which of the ovarian vesicles shall be fecundated; or are there not some that are riper than the rest, and that receive, by preference, the vivifying influence of the sperm? MM. Prévost and Dumas have shown, that such is the case with oviparous animals. They found, in their experiments, that not only were the vesicles of the ovaries of frogs of different sizes, but that the largest were always first laid, whilst the smallest were not to be deposited until subsequent years. In all the animals, whose eggs were fecundated externally, they seemed evidently prepared or matured.\* We have, too, the most indubitable evidence that birds—although unquestionably virgins—may lay infecund eggs. Analogy would lead us to believe, that something similar may happen to the viviparous animal, and direct observation has confirmed the position. In all cases in which an ovum has escaped, a cavity of course is left in the ovarium, which is filled up, in the manner already mentioned, by a growth from the Graafian follicle, which, thus altered, constitutes the *corpus luteum*.<sup>b</sup>

Not longer ago than the year 1808, the existence of the corpora lutea in the ovaria was held to be full proof of impregnation. In that year, Charles Angus, Esq., of Liverpool, England, was tried at the Lancaster Assizes, for the murder of Miss Burns, a resident of his house.<sup>c</sup> The symptoms previous to her decease, and the appearances observed on dissection, were such as to warrant the suspicion that she had been poisoned. The uterine organs were also found to be in such a state as to induce a belief, that she had been delivered a short time before her death, of a foetus, which had nearly arrived at maturity. It was not, however, until after the trial, that the ovaria were examined, in the presence of a number of physicians; when a *corpus luteum* was distinctly perceived in one of them. The uterus was taken to London and shown to several of the most eminent practitioners there; all of whom appear to have considered that the presence of a *corpus luteum* proved the fact of pregnancy beyond a doubt.<sup>d</sup> Such, indeed, is the positive averment of Haller,<sup>e</sup> an opinion which was embraced by Haighton,<sup>f</sup> who maintained that they furnish "incontestable proof" of previous impregnation. It was this belief,—coupled with the fact, that division of the Fallopian tubes, in his experiments, prevented impregnation, whilst corpora lutea were found, notwithstanding, in the ovary,—which led him to the strange conclusion, that the semen penetrates no farther than the uterus, and acts upon the ovaria by sympathy.

Sir Everard Home<sup>g</sup> affirms, that corpora lutea exist independently

<sup>a</sup> Hüter, art. Empfängniss, in Encyclopäd. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch. x. 632, Berlin, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> F. Renaud, Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Medical Science, June, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, v. 220.

<sup>d</sup> Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, 6th edit. i. 247, New York, 1838.

<sup>e</sup> Element. Physiolog. xxix. 1.

<sup>f</sup> Philosoph. Transact. lxxvii. 159.

<sup>g</sup> Philosoph. Transact. for 1817 and 1819; and Lectures on Compar. Anat. iii. 304.

of impregnation. "Upon examining," said he "the ovaria of several women, who had died virgins, and in whom the hymen was too perfect to admit of the possibility of impregnation, there were not only distinct corpora lutea, but also small cavities around the edge of the ovarium, evidently left by ova, that had passed out at some former period;" and he affirms, that whenever a female quadruped is in heat, one or more ova pass from the ovaria to the uterus, whether she receives the male or not. This view of the subject appears to have been first propounded by Blumenbach,\* who remarks that the state of the ovaria of females, who have died under strong sexual passion, has been found similar to that of rabbits during heat; and he affirms, that in the body of a young woman, eighteen years of age, who had been brought up in a convent, and had every appearance of being a virgin, Vallisneri found five or six vesicles pushing forward in one ovarium, and the corresponding Fallopian tube redder and larger than usual, as he had frequently observed in animals during heat. Bonnet, he adds, gives the history of a young lady, who died vehemently in love with a man of low station, and whose ovaria were turgid with vesicles of great size. It has been already remarked, under Menstruation, that the periodical recurrence of that function has been supposed by some to consist in the production and development of vesicles in the ovary, that is, of a matured ovum which is periodically brought forward either to be expelled with the menstrual flux, or to be destroyed in the ovary; a view which was entertained by Cruikshank, and has been recently urged strongly by Gendrin.

Buffon, again, maintained, that instead of the corpus luteum of Haller being the remains of the ovule, it is its rudiment; and that the corpus exists prior to fecundation,—as he, also, found it in the virgin. Lastly, Dr. Blundell<sup>b</sup> states, that he has in his possession a preparation, consisting of the ovaries of a young girl, who died of cholera under seventeen years of age, with the hymen, which nearly closed the entrance of the vagina, unbroken. In these ovaries, the corpora lutea are no fewer than four; two of them being a little obscure, but easily perceptible by an experienced eye. The remaining two are very distinct, and differ from the corpus luteum of genuine impregnation merely by their more diminutive size and the less extensive vascularity of the contiguous parts of the ovary. "In every other respect," says Dr. Blundell, "in colour and form, and the cavity which they contain, their appearance is perfectly natural,—indeed, so much so, that I occasionally circulate them in the class-room, as accurate specimens of the luteum upon the small scale." Mr. Stanley<sup>c</sup> confirms the fact of the corpora lutea of virgins being of a smaller size than those that are the consequences of impregnation; and Dr. Montgomery<sup>d</sup> says, that he has seen many of these virgin corpora

\* Comment. Soc. Roy. Scient. Gotting. ix. 128; and Elliotson's edit. of Blumenbach's Physiology, 4th edit., p. 468, Lond. 1828.

<sup>b</sup> Researches, Physiol. and Pathological, p. 49, Lond. 1825.

<sup>c</sup> Transactions of the Royal College of Physicians of London, vol. vi.

<sup>d</sup> An Exposition of the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, &c., p. 245, Lond. 1837, or Dunglison's Amer. Med. Lib. edit., Philad. 1839; and art. Signs of Pregnancy and Delivery, in Cyclop. of Pract. Medicine, Lond. 1833.

lutea, "as they are unhappily called," and has preserved several specimens of them, but not in any instance, did they present what he

Fig. 299.



*Corpus Luteum in the third month.—(Montgomery.)*

Fig. 300.



*Corpus Luteum at the end of the ninth month.—(Montgomery.)*

would regard as even an approach to the assemblage of characters belonging to the true corpus luteum,—the result of impregnation; from which, according to him, they differ in the following particulars:—1. There is no prominence or enlargement of the ovary over them. 2. The external cicatrix is almost always wanting. 3. There are often several of them found in both ovaries, especially in subjects who have died of tubercular diseases, such as phthisis, in which case they appear to be merely depositions of tubercle, and are frequently without any discoverable connexion with the Graafian vesicles. 4. They present no trace whatever of vessels in their substance, of which they are in fact entirely destitute, and of course cannot be injected. 5. Their texture is sometimes so infirm, that it seems to be merely the remains of a coagulum, and at others appears fibro-cellular like that of the internal structure of the ovary; but never presents the soft, rich, lobulated, and regularly glandular appearance, which Hunter meant to express, when he described them as "tender and friable like glandular flesh." 6. In form they are often triangular, or square, or of some figure bounded by straight lines; and 7. They never present, either the central cavity, or the radiated or stelliform white line, which results from its closure.\* Figures 299 and 300, from Dr. Montgomery, represent the corpus luteum in the third, and at the end of the ninth month, respectively.

Dr. William Davidson,<sup>b</sup> of Edinburgh, however, has published three dissections of females—not one of whom was pregnant—and in each, corpora lutea were found. They all possessed the characters assigned them by Dr. Montgomery,—a central cavity, or fibrous coagulum; an oval shape, and a radiated white cicatrix in the centre, just about the central body;—the body being at the same time *immediately* under the peritoneal coat. This last point is dwelt upon by Dr. Robert Lee, who maintains, that false corpora lutea are never observed in immediate connexion with the peritoneum, a small portion of stroma intervening. One of the females had been in a weakly condition for some years, and had no children; another was unmarried, and had menstruated three days previous to her death; of the third, there was no

\* See Dr. E. Rigby, *System of Midwifery*, American edit., p. 27, Philad. 1841; and Dr. R. Paterson, *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ.* Jan. 1840; and Jan. 1844, p. 464.

<sup>b</sup> *Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Med. Science*, Dec. 1841.

history, but all the organs were healthy, and the Fallopian tubes and uterus were in every respect natural. Dr. Davidson expresses his confident opinion, that in none of the cases had there been impregnation prior to the appearance of these bodies; and he refers to Professors Alison, Allen Thomson, John Reid, and Mr. Goodsir, in proof of the accuracy of his statement, and of their perfect resemblance to true corpora lutea. He states, as the result of his investigations, the belief, that impregnation cannot take place without the appearance of a true corpus luteum, but that a true corpus luteum may appear independently of impregnation. That the latter is the case also in animals has been shown by the recent researches of Bischoff<sup>a</sup> and others.

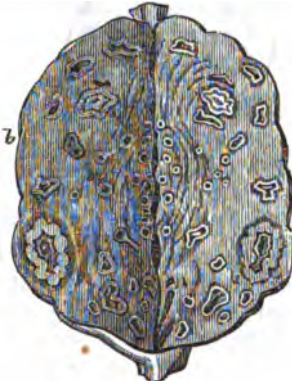
It is not yet decided at what period the central cavity disappears or closes up to form the stellated line. Dr. Montgomery thinks he has invariably found it existing up to the end of the fourth month. He has one specimen in which it was closed in the fifth month, and another in which it was open in the sixth, but later than this he has never found it.

The structure of the corpus luteum is of a peculiar kind, and is not distinctly seen in small animals, or in those that have numerous litters; but in the cow, which commonly has only one calf at a birth, it is so large, according to Sir Everard Home,<sup>b</sup> that, when magnified, the structure can be made out. It is a mass of thin convolutions, bearing

Fig. 301.



Fig. 302.



*Corpora Lutea.*—(Sir E. Home.)

a greater resemblance to those of the brain than to any other organ. Its shape is irregularly oval, with a central cavity, and in some animals, its substance is of a bright orange colour, when first exposed. The corpora lutea are found to make their appearance immediately after puberty, and they continue to succeed each other, as the ova

<sup>a</sup> Beweis der von Begattung unabhängigen periodischen Reifung und Lösung der Eier, Gießen, 1844; translated in Lond. Med. Gaz. Jan. 13, 17, &c., 1845, and cited by Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1845, p. 587.

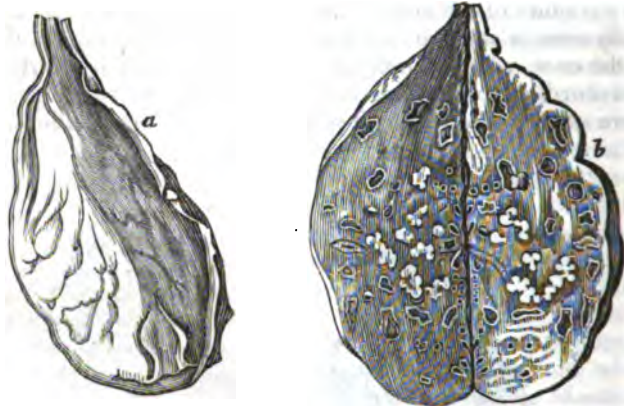
<sup>b</sup> Lect. on Comp. Anat. iii. 303.

are expelled, till the period arrives when impregnation can no longer be accomplished. Sir Everard's theory, regarding these bodies, is, that they are glands, formed purposely for the production of ova,—and a similar view is entertained by Seiler;<sup>a</sup>—that they exist previous to, and are unconnected with sexual intercourse, and, when they have fulfilled their office of forming ova, they are removed by absorption, whether the ova be fecundated or not.

Figures 301 and 302 afford an external and internal view of a human ovary, that did not contain the ovum, from which a child had been developed. It was taken immediately after the child was born. The corpus luteum is nearly of the full size. Figs. 303 and 304 afford an external and internal view of the ovarium, from which the impregnated ovum had escaped. Figure *b* exhibits how much the corpus luteum had been broken down. In it is seen a new corpus luteum forming.

Fig. 303.

Fig. 304.

*Corpora Lutea.*—(Sir E. Home.)

From all these facts, then, we are perhaps justified in concluding with Sir Everard Home,<sup>b</sup> and Messrs. Blundell, Saumarez,<sup>c</sup> Cuvier, and others,<sup>d</sup> that something resembling a corpus luteum may be produced independently of sexual intercourse, by the mere excitement of high carnal desire, or perhaps without it, during which it is probable, that the digitated extremity of the Fallopian tube embraces the ovary, a vesicle bursts its covering, and a yellow body remains. The ovule is conveyed along the tube into the uterus, but, being in-

<sup>a</sup> Das Ei und die Gebärmutter des Menschen, u. s. w., Dresd. 1832; and Stannius, art. Eierstock, in Encycl. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch. x. 193, Berl. 1834. See also, Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 464, Braunschweig, 1832.

<sup>b</sup> Op. cit. iii. 304.

<sup>c</sup> A New System of Physiology, i. 337; see Granville's Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, part vi. Lond. 1834; and Dr. Allen Thomson, in Art. Generation, Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol. part. xiii. p. 450, for Feb. 1838.

<sup>d</sup> For a history of the opinions entertained at various times regarding the corpus luteum, see Dr. Paterson, Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, April, 1841, p. 402.



fecund, it undergoes no farther developement there; so that unimpregnated ova may, under such circumstances, be discharged, as we observe in the oviparous animal.

When pregnancy is over, the corpus luteum gradually diminishes in size and disappears. Dr. Montgomery remarks, that the exact period of its total disappearance he is unable to state, but that he has found it distinctly visible so late as the end of five months after delivery at the full time, but not beyond this period. It would appear, therefore, that in a few months after the termination of pregnancy, all traces of the corpus luteum are lost, and that, consequently, it will be impossible to decide how frequently impregnation has taken place, merely by examining the ovaries.\*

Such have been the sentiments of physiologists in regard to the formation of corpora lutea; a marked difference being admitted by most of them to exist between those that result from the escape of infecund ova, and those that are the consequence of the escape of the impregnated; whilst others have regarded them as identical. By those, however, who maintain that the ova always leave the ovary prior to fecundation, it must seem consistent to presume, that the corpora lutea are alike in all cases; and hence, that the ovaries can furnish no probable solution after death, by the appearance presented by the corpora lutea, of the question, whether the female had been impregnated or not. M. Raciborski, at one time maintained this doctrine, affirming, that not merely as a result of conception, but at each menstrual period, the discharge of an ovum is followed by the formation of a corpus luteum. Since then, however, he appears to have changed his sentiments as regards the human female, but maintains that such is the fact in animals,—after each period of heat a corpus luteum being formed, which is undistinguishable from that formed after fecundation. The conclusions to which he now arrives are the following. *First.* The corpora lutea are produced by hypertrophy of the granular substance which lines the internal membrane of the Graafian vesicle. *Secondly.* The transformation of this substance commences as soon as the ovule attains maturity, and the vesicle is then prepared to break and give passage to it. *Thirdly.* As soon as the Graafian follicles burst, the transformation is rapidly developed. But an important distinction occurs. If the ovum has been expelled spontaneously—as at every menstrual period—the granulations increase in number and size, under the form of a thin, yellowish membrane, adherent to the membrane of the vesicle; and, in the cavity which it forms, a small clot of blood is to be found. If, on the contrary, conception coincides with the expulsion, the elements of the granular tunic increase so much in size and number, that in a little time they form a voluminous mass, which fills the whole cavity of the vesicle. In the centre of this yellow mass, a small whitish fibrinous tissue—the cicatrix indicating a former cavity—is with difficulty distinguishable. *Fourthly.* In all females delivered at the full period corpora lutea of this description exist; but they rapidly waste

\* Rigby, op. cit. p. 27, Philad. 1840. See, also, T. W. Jones, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1843, p. 528.

and disappear after delivery. *Fifthly*. It results from the above that by simple inspection, cases of simple spontaneous expulsion of ova may be readily distinguished from those that have been followed by impregnation.\*

They, who consider that fecundation is not accomplished in the ovary, must believe that the ovarian changes, which accompany and signalize fecundation, are produced by some reflex action from the uterus; and such is the view embraced by Dr. Ritchie, who has entered into elaborate inquiries on this whole subject. It has been a matter of discussion with histologists, whether the substance of the corpus luteum be deposited within the Graafian vesicle, externally to it, or between its layers. Von Baer, Valentin, Wagner, Bischoff, and Raciborski, embrace the first opinion. Dr. Robert Lee, Mr. T. Wharton Jones, the second; and Drs. Montgomery, Barry, and Paterson, the third. Dr. Ritchie<sup>b</sup> has shown that a great variety of changes may take place in the ovary after the ovum has been discharged, amongst which may be included all the appearances depicted by those observers. Besides varying in seat, too, he states, that they differ considerably in aspect and character;—some being of a white colour, *corpora albida*; others of a brain-like character,—*corpora cephaloidea*; and others, at first, similar to the last, but becoming subsequently of a decidedly red colour—*corpora rubra*. The *corpora albida* may exist under two forms—first as *soft* bodies of a yellowish fatty appearance, having the outer coat much thickened, whilst the inner remains as a delicate diaphanous pellicle; these, after a long period, present themselves as yellowish-white, and generally globular bodies, more or less fissured from their contraction, and sometimes, in process of absorption, having a granular-looking structure, and seldom divisible into laminæ by dissection; and secondly, as *dense* bodies of a whitish, shining, firm structure, the inner coat being the seat of those changes, and the outer adhering loosely as a transparent pellicular layer. The inner layer has the appearance of a thick, opaque, deeply wrinkled cyst; or is sometimes partially diaphanous, and of a shining pearly aspect, and white colour; and it sometimes contains a yellow, greenish, transparent fluid, or a clot of blood, either unchanged, or converted into a yellow or black pigment.

Of the *corpora cephaloidea*, Dr. Ritchie depicts many varieties, according as the cerebriform matter was deposited between the layers of ruptured follicles, having transparent pellicular walls, or having their inner or outer coat thickened; or externally to the two inner layers of the follicle. The last variety only was met with exclusively in the fecundated female. They were generally distinguished by large, persistent, white, glistening cavities. The granular cephaloid matter was sometimes found quite absorbed, a few days after delivery; but, in other instances, it underwent the changes characteristic of the next class.

The *corpora rubra* are peculiar to the impregnated and suckling

\* Bulletin de l'Académie Royale de Médecine, Oct. and Nov. 1844; cited in Med. Examiner, June, 1845, p. 384.

<sup>b</sup> Op. cit.; also, Carpenter, Principles of Human Physiology, 2d Amer. edit. p. 597.

female—in the period between the eighth and thirteenth months after conception. They appeared to Dr. Ritchie to be a conversion of the corpora cephaloidea, arising out of a higher and more perfect organization. Down to the seventh month of utero-gestation, the cysts contained in the ovaries do not differ from the cephaloid bodies found in the unimpregnated state, except that they are sometimes plumper, more vascular, better developed, and had their inner layer more frequently thickened. A change of the granular hue then commences, which becomes more and more decided; so that by the end of the first month after delivery, it is of a decided rose colour, changing to a still more florid hue on exposure to air. Its cavity also contracts, so as to leave only a stellated point, or a curved groove, with a fibrous appearance in the surrounding substance.

Although the corpora rubra are found exclusively in the latter months of pregnancy, or in the puerperal state, yet, they are not always present in those conditions. The form of corpora cephaloidea described above, and the corpora rubra, alone, according to Dr. Ritchie, coincide with pregnancy.

It is obvious that the whole subject of the value of the corpora lutea as an index of fecundation is in an unsettled condition; and, consequently, that the medical jurist must be exceedingly cautious, from their appearance, in giving decided testimony in a court of justice; for although—as has been seen—some observers, Dr. Montgomery, for example, have pronounced strongly in regard to the markedly distinctive characters of the corpora lutea of impregnation; others—as Dr. Davidson—have deposed as strongly to the absence of such characteristics. The difficulty of accurate decision is sufficiently shown by a recent controversy between two distinguished observers and writers on this matter, Dr. R. Paterson, and Dr. Robert Lee. Dr. Paterson\* had described what he conceived to be an early corpus luteum. This was designated by Dr. Lee, in his lectures, as a mere clot of blood; and he afterwards affirmed, that “the said clot of blood did not present one of the characters of a true corpus luteum,” and that if he “was summoned into a court of justice, he would have no hesitation in declaring upon oath, from the evidence furnished, that the proofs of pregnancy were wholly wanting.” Dissatisfied with these remarks, Dr. Paterson forwarded, through a friend, the specimen in question, without stating what it was, to obtain Dr. Lee’s unbiassed opinion of it from personal inspection; when, after a careful examination, Dr. Lee returned an answer, declaring it to be an early true corpus luteum, and requested permission to describe it as such before the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society of London!†

In regard to the offices performed by the corpora lutea, difference of sentiment has existed, and still exists. Sir Everard Home—as has been seen—adopts the opinion of Vallisneri, that they are glandular formations concerned in the production of fresh ova. Others have supposed, that they furnish the ovum with the first

\* Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ. No. 142; see, also, Mr. T. Wharton Jones, in Lond. Med. Gaz. Aug. 9, 1844.

† Dr. R. Paterson, in Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., Oct. 1844, p. 467.

materials that are needed for its developement.<sup>a</sup> The generality of physiologists, properly perhaps, regard them as the result of a simple process of cicatrization set up in the emptied vesicle,—a process, which, according to Bischoff,<sup>b</sup> bears the greatest analogy to that of the closure and healing of an abscess.

c. *Theories of Generation.*—We have now endeavoured to demonstrate the part performed by the two sexes in fecundation. We have seen that the material furnished by the male is the sperm; that afforded by the female an ovum. The most difficult topic of inquiry yet remains,—how the new individual results from their commixture? Of the nature of this mysterious process we are indeed profoundly ignorant; and if we could make any comparison between the extent of our ignorance on the different vital phenomena, we should be disposed to decide, that the function of generation is, perhaps, the least intelligible. The new being must be stamped instantaneously as by the die. From the very moment of the admixture of the materials, at a fecundating copulation, the embryo must have within it the powers necessary for its own formation, and under impulses communicated by each parent—as regards likeness, hereditary predisposition, &c. From this moment the father has no communication with it; yet we know, that it will resemble him in its features and in its predispositions to certain morbid states,—whilst the mother probably exerts but a slight and indirect control over it afterwards, her office being chiefly to furnish the homunculus with a nidus, in which it may work its own formation, and with the necessary pabulum. We have seen, that even so early as the seventh and eighth day after fecundation, two projecting points—it has been asserted—are observed in the ovum, which indicate the future situations of the brain and spinal marrow. [?] Our want of acquaintance with the precise character of this impenetrable mystery will not, however, excuse us from passing over some of the ingenious hypotheses that have been entertained on the subject. These have varied according to the views that have prevailed respecting the nature of the sperm; and to the opinions indulged regarding the matter furnished by the ovary. Drelincourt,<sup>c</sup> who died in 1697, collected as many as two hundred and sixty hypotheses of generation; but they may all, perhaps, be classed under two,—the system of *epigenesis* and that of *evolution*.

1. *Epigenesis.*—According to this system, which is the most ancient of all, the new being is conceived to be built up of materials furnished by both sexes, the particles composing those materials having previously possessed the arrangement necessary for constituting it, or having suddenly received such arrangement. Still, it is requisite that these particles should have some controlling agent to regulate their affinity, different from any of the ordinary forces of matter; and hence a force has been imagined to exist, which has been termed *cosmic, plastic, essential, nisus formativus*—the *Bildungstrieb* of the

<sup>a</sup> On the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, &c., Amer. Med. Libr. edit. p. 149. Philad. 1839.

<sup>b</sup> Developpement de l'Homme, &c., traduit par Jourdan, p. 44, Paris, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Novem Libelli de Utero, Conceptione, Fœtû, &c., Lugd. Bat. 1632.

Germans—*force of formation, &c.* Hippocrates<sup>a</sup> maintains, that each of the two sexes possesses two kinds of seed, formed by the superfluous nutriment, and by fluids constituted of materials proceeding from all parts of the body, and especially from the most essential,—the nervous. Of these two seeds, the stronger begets males, the weaker females. In the act of generation, these seeds become mixed in the uterus, and by the influence of the heat of that organ, they form the new individual—by a kind of animal crystallization—male or female, according to the predominance of the stronger or the weaker seed. Aristotle<sup>b</sup> thought, that it is not by seed that the female participates in generation, but by the menstrual blood. This blood he conceived to be the basis of the new individual, and the principles furnished by the male to communicate to it the vital movement, and to fashion it. Empedocles, Epicurus, and various other ancient physiologists, contended, that the male and female respectively contribute a seminal fluid, which equally co-operate in the generation and developement of the fœtus, and that it belongs to the male or female sex, or resembles more closely the father or the mother, according as the orgasm of the one or the other predominates, or is accompanied by a more copious discharge.<sup>c</sup> Lactantius, in quoting the views of Aristotle on generation, fancifully affirms, that the right side of the uterus is the proper chamber of the male fœtus, and the left of the female,—a belief, which appears to be still prevalent amongst the vulgar, in many parts of Great Britain. But he adds, if the male or stronger semen should, by mistake, enter the left side of the uterus, a male child may still be conceived; yet as it occupies the female department, its voice, face, &c., will be effeminate. On the contrary, if the weaker or female seed should flow into the right side of the uterus, and a female fœtus be engendered, it will exhibit evidences of a masculine character. The idea of Aristotle, with regard to the menstrual blood, has met with few partisans, and is undeserving of notice. That of Hippocrates, notwithstanding the objections, which we now know to apply to it,—that the female furnishes no sperm, and that the ovaria are probably in no respect analogous to the testes of the male,—has had numerous supporters amongst the moderns, being modified to suit the scientific ideas of the time, and of the individual. Descartes, for example, considered the new being to arise from a kind of fermentation of the seed furnished by both sexes. Pascal, that the sperm of the male is acid, and that of the female alkaline; and that they combine to form the embryo. Maupertuis<sup>d</sup> maintained, that, in each seed, parts exist, adapted for the formation of every organ of the body, and that, at the time of the union of the seed in a fecundating copulation, each of the parts is properly attracted and aggregated by a kind of crystallization.<sup>e</sup>

The celebrated hypothesis of the eloquent but too enthusiastic

<sup>a</sup> Πρωτογενεῖς; in Oper. Omnia. edit. A. Foësius. Genev. 1657–1662.

<sup>b</sup> De Generatione Animalium, &c. i. 19.

<sup>c</sup> “Semper enim partus duplici de semine constat;

Atque utrique simile est magis id quodcumque creatur.”—*Lucret.* lib. iv.

<sup>d</sup> *Venus Physique*, Paris, 1751.

<sup>e</sup> Adelon, *Physiologie de l’Homme*, iv. 85, Paris, 1829.

Buffon<sup>a</sup> is but a modification of the Hippocratic doctrine of epigenesis. According to him, there exist in nature two kinds of matter,—the living and the dead; the former perpetually changing during life, and consisting of an infinite number of small, incorruptible particles or primordial monads, which he called *organic molecules*. These molecules, by combining in greater or less quantity with dead matter, form all organized bodies; and without undergoing destruction are incessantly passing from vegetables to animals in the nutrition of the latter, and are returned from the animal to the vegetable by the death and putrefaction of the former. These organic molecules, during the period of growth, are appropriated to the development of the individual; but as soon as he has acquired his full size the superfluous molecules are sent into depot in the genital organs, each molecule being invested with the shape of the part sending it. In this way he conceived the seed of both sexes to be formed of molecules obtained from every part of the system. In the commixture of the seeds, during a fecundating copulation, the same force that assimilates the organic molecules to the parts of the body for their nourishment and increase, causes them, in this hypothesis, to congregate for the formation of the new individual; and according as the molecules of the male or female predominate, so is the embryo male or female. The ingenuity of this doctrine was captivating; and it appeared so well adapted for the explanation of many of the phenomena of generation, that it had numerous and respectable votaries. It accounted for the circumstance of procreation being impracticable, until the system had undergone its great development at puberty. It explained why excessive indulgence in venery occasions emaciation and exhaustion; and why, on the other hand, the castrated animal is disposed to obesity,—the depot having been removed by the mutilation. The resemblance of the child to one parent rather than to the other was supposed to be owing to the one furnishing a greater proportion of organic molecules than the other; and as more males than females are born, the circumstance was ascribed to the male being usually stronger, and therefore furnishing a stronger seed, or more of it.

Prior to this hypothesis, Leeuwenhoek<sup>b</sup> had discovered what he considered to be spermatic animalcules in the semen; but Buffon contested their animalcular nature, and regarded them as his vital particles or organic molecules; whilst he looked upon the ovarian vesicle as the capsule that contained the sperm of the female. The opinions of Buffon were slightly modified by Blumenbach,<sup>c</sup> and by Darwin.<sup>d</sup> The former, like Buffon, divided matter into two kinds, possessing properties essentially different from each other;—the inorganic and the organized; the latter possessing a peculiar creative or formative effort, which he called *Bildungstrieb* or *nisus formativus*,—a principle in many respects resembling gravitation, and en-

<sup>a</sup> *Histoire Naturelle*, tom. xvii. &c., Paris, 1799.

<sup>b</sup> *Arcana Naturæ*, Lugd. Bat. 1685.

<sup>c</sup> *Ueber den Bildungstrieb*, Götting. 1791; *Comment. Societat. Götting.* tom. viii.; and Elliotson's *Blumenbach's Physiology*, 4th edit. p. 490, Lond. 1828.

<sup>d</sup> *Zoonomia*, Lond. 1796.

dowing every organ, as soon as it acquires structure, with a *vita propria*. This force he conceived to preside over the arrangement of the materials furnished by the two sexes in generation. Darwin preferred to the term organic molecules that of *vital germs*, which he says are of two kinds, according as they are secreted or provided by male or female organs, whether animal or vegetable. In the subdivision, however, of the germs the term *molecule* is retained; but it is limited to those of the female;—the vital germs or particles, secreted by the female organs of a bud or flower, or the female particles of an animal, being denominated by him *molecules* with formative propensities; whilst those secreted from the male organs are termed *fibrils* with formative appetencies. To the fibrils he assigns a higher degree of organization than to the molecules. Both, however, he asserts, have a propensity or appetency to form or create, and “they reciprocally stimulate and embrace each other and instantly coalesce; and may thus popularly be compared to the double affinities of chemistry.”

Subtile as these hypotheses are, they are open to forcible objections, of which a few only will suffice. The notion of this occult force is identical with that, which, we shall see hereafter, has prevailed as regards life in general, and it leaves the subject in the same obscurity as ever. What do the terms *plastic*, *cosmic*, or *vegetative force*, or *Bildungstrieb* express, which is not equally conveyed by *vital force*,—that mysterious power, on which so many unfathomable processes of the animal body are dependent, and of the nature or essence of which we know absolutely nothing? The objection, urged against the doctrine of Hippocrates,—that we have no evidence of the existence of female sperm,—applies equally to the hypotheses that have been founded upon it; and even were we to grant, that the ovarium is a receptacle for female sperm, the idea, that such sperm is constituted of organic molecules, derived from every part of the body, would still be entirely gratuitous. We have no facts to demonstrate the affirmative; whilst there are many circumstances, that favour the negative. The individual, for example, who has lost some part of his person—nose, eye, or ear, or has had a limb amputated, or has been circumcised, still begets perfect children; yet whence can the molecules, in such cases, have been obtained? It is true, that if the mutilation affect but one parent, the organic molecules of the lost part may still exist in the seed of the other; but we ought, at least, to expect the part to be less perfectly formed in the embryo, which it is not. Where two docked horses are made to engender, the result ought, *a fortiori*, to be imperfect, as the organic molecules of the tail could not be furnished by either parent, yet we find the colt in such cases, perfect in this appendage. An elucidative case is also afforded by the foetus. If we admit the possibility of organic molecules constituting those parts that exist in the parents, how can we account for the formation of such as are peculiar to foetal existence? Whence are the organic molecules of the navel-string, or of the umbilical vein, or of the ductus venosus, or the ductus arteriosus, or the umbilical arteries obtained? These and other objections have led to the abandonment of the theory of Buffon, which remains merely as a monument of the author's ingenuity and elevation of fancy.

2. *Evolution*.—According to this theory, the new individual pre-exists in some shape in one of the sexes, but requires to be vivified by the other, in the act of generation; after which it commences the series of developements or *evolutions*, which lead to the formation of an independent being.<sup>a</sup> The great differences of sentiment that have prevailed under this view, have been owing to the part which each sex has been conceived to play in the function. Some have considered the germ to exist in the ovary, and to require the vivifying influence of the male sperm to cause its evolution. Others have conceived the male sperm to contain the rudiments of the new being, and the female to afford it merely a nidus, and pabulum during its developement. The former class of physiologists have been called *ovarists*;—the latter *spermatists*, *seminists*, and *animalculists*. The ovarists maintain, that the part furnished by the female is an ovum from the ovary; and this ovum they conceive to be formed of an embryo and of particular organs for the nutrition and first development of the embryo; and adapted for becoming, after a series of changes or evolutions, a being similar to the one whence it has emanated. The hypothesis was suggested by the fact, that in many animals but a single individual is necessary for reproduction, and it is easier, perhaps, to conceive this individual to be female than male; as well as by what is noticed in many oviparous animals. In these, the part, furnished by the female, is manifestly an ovum or egg; and in many, such egg is laid before the union of the sexes, and is fecundated, as we have seen, externally. By analogy, the inference was drawn, that this may happen to the viviparous animal also. The notion is said, but erroneously, to have been first of all advanced by Joseph de Aromatariis.<sup>b</sup> It was developed by Harvey,<sup>c</sup> who strenuously maintained the doctrine *omne vivum ex ovo*. The anatomical examinations of Sylvius, Vesalius, Fallopius, De Graaf,<sup>d</sup> Malpighi,<sup>e</sup> Vallisnieri<sup>f</sup> and others,—by showing, that what had been previously regarded as female testes, and had been so called, were organs containing minute vesicles or ova, and hence termed by Steno *ovaria*,—were strong confirmations of this view, and startling objections to the ancient theory of epigenesis; and the problem appeared to be demonstrated, when it was discovered, that the vesicle or ovum leaves the ovarium, and passes through the Fallopian tube to the uterus.

The chief arguments that have been adduced in favour of this doctrine are:—*First*. The difficulty of conceiving the formation, *ab origine*, of an organized body, as no one part can exist without the simultaneous existence of others. *Secondly*. The existence of the germ prior to fecundation in many living beings. In plants, for example, the grain exists in a rudimental state in the flower, before the pollen, which has to fecundate it, has attained maturity. In birds,

<sup>a</sup> C. Windischmann, art. *Evolutions Theorie*, Encyclopäd. Wörterb. der Medicinisch. Wissensch. xi. 615, Berlin, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> *Epist. de Generatione Plantarum ex Seminibus*, Venet. 1625.

<sup>c</sup> *Exercitationes de Generatione Animalium*, Lond. 1651.

<sup>d</sup> *De Organis Mulierum*, &c. Lugd. Bat. 1672.

<sup>e</sup> *Append. ad Opera Omnia*, Lugd. Bat. 1687.

<sup>f</sup> *Istoria della Generazione dell'Uomo*, Discorsi Acad. i.-iv., Venez. 1733-1736.



too, the egg must pre-exist, as we find that those, which have never had intercourse with the male, can yet lay. This is more strikingly manifest in many fishes, and in the *batracia* or frog kind; where the egg is not fecundated until after extrusion. Spallanzani, moreover, asserts, that he could distinguish the presence of the tadpole in the unfecundated ova of the frog; and Haller, that of the chick in the infecund egg; at least he has seen them containing the yolk, which, in his view, is but a dependence of the intestine of the foetus, and if the yolk exist, the chick exists also.[1] *Thirdly*. The fact, before referred to, that in certain animals, a single copulation is capable of fecundating several successive generations. In these cases, it is argued, the germ of the different generations must have existed in the first. *Fourthly*. The fact of natural and accidental encasings, inclusions, or *emboitements*,—as in the bulb of the hyacinth, in which the rudiments of the flower are distinguishable; in the buds of trees, in which the branches, leaves, and flowers, have been detected in miniature, and greatly convoluted; in the jaws of certain animals, in which the germs of different series of teeth can be detected; in the volvox, a transparent animal, which exhibits several young ones encased in each other; in the common egg, which occasionally has another within it; and in the instances on record, in which human foetuses have been found in the bodies of youths, of which there is a striking example in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, of London; and a similar case in a boy of fourteen years of age, has been related by Dupuytren. A most singular case of the kind occurred to M. Velpeau.\* A tumour was removed from the scrotum of a young man aged 27, which was found to contain almost all the elements of a human body. Its exterior was evidently tegumentary, and the greater part of its substance was a mixture of lamellæ and fibres like cellular, adipous, muscular, and fibrous tissues. In the interior, there were two cysts filled with a substance like albumen or the vitreous humour; another cyst, as large as a partridge's egg, containing a greenish semi-fluid matter like meconium; and a fourth contained a dirty yellow grumous mass surrounded by hairs: the mass consisted of sebaceous matter and scales of epidermis: the hairs had no bulbs. A tuft of hair, which protruded externally from a kind of ulcer at the posterior part,—and which, with the fact of the tumour being congenital, induced M. Velpeau to consider it to be foetal,—proceeded from the cyst that contained the meconium-like substance, and gave the opening into it somewhat the appearance of an anus. In the midst of all these, numerous perfectly organized portions of a skeleton were found, consisting of bones resembling more or less the clavicle, scapula, humerus, sphenoid bone, sacrum, portions of vertebræ, and others whose names could not be determined. A peculiarity of this case of monstrosity by inclusion was, that the second foetus did not act as a foreign body in the other, but had a separate and independent existence and power of growth within itself. The tumour had its own colour and consistence, and a sensibility entirely independent of the person to whom it was attached. The

\* Gazette Médicale, 15 Fév. 1840.

man himself pierced it several times with a knife without feeling the least pain; and yet, all the wounds that were made in it bled, inflamed, and cicatrized like those of any other part of the body. Perhaps, the explanation of these extraordinary cases by Dr. Blundell is as philosophical as any that could be devised. A seed or egg, he remarks, though fecundated, may lie for years without being evolved. A serpent may become enclosed under the eggshell of the goose; the shell probably forming over it as the animal lies in the oviduct of the bird. These facts Dr. Blundell applies to the phenomenon in question. When the boy was begotten, a twin was begotten at the same time,—but, while the former underwent his developement in the usual manner, the impregnated ovum of his companion lay dormant, and unresistingly became closed up within the fraternal structure, as the viper in the eggshell. For a few years, these living rudiments generally lie quiet within the body, and ultimately become developed so as to occasion the death of both. “The boy,” he remarks—speaking of one of the cases—“became pregnant with his twin brother, his abdomen formed the receptacle, where, as in the nest of a bird, the formation was accomplished.” Cases of this kind of arrest of development occasionally occur, where two or more ova are fecundated at the same time, or in succession. To this we shall refer under Superfecundation.<sup>a</sup> *Fifthly.* The fact of the various metamorphoses that take place in certain animals. Of these we have the most familiar instances in the batracia, and in insects. The forms which they have successively to assume are evidently encased. In the chrysalis, the outlines of the form of the future butterfly are apparent; and in the larva we observe those of the chrysalis. The frog is also apparent under the skin of the tadpole. *Sixthly.* The fact of artificial fecundation, which has been regarded by the ovarists as one of the strongest proofs of their theory; the quantity of sperm employed, as in the experiments of Spallanzani already detailed, being too small, in their opinion, to assist in the formation of the new individual, except as a vivifying material. *Lastly.* They invoke the circumstance of partial reproduction, of which all living bodies afford more or less manifest examples;—as the reproduction of the hair and nails in man; of the teeth in the rodentia; of the tail in the lizard; of the claw in the lobster; of the head in the snail, &c., &c. All these phenomena, according to them, are owing to each part possessing, within itself, germs destined for its reproduction, and requiring only favourable circumstances for their developement. The partisans of the doctrine of epigenesis, however, consider these last facts as opposed to the views of the ovarists; and they maintain, that, in such cases, there is throughout a fresh formation.

The chief objections, that have been urged against the hypothesis

<sup>a</sup> Principles and Practice of Obstetrics, edited by Dr. Castle, London, 1834; American edition, Washington.

<sup>b</sup> See a case of “Abdominal Enadelphism or Monstrosity by Inclusion,” by M. Roux, du Var, with reflections by M. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, in *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, No. 35, 27 Août, 1836; and *Researches on Monstrosity by Inclusion in Animals*, suggested by a case of the kind in a Human Fœtus, by M. Charvet, in *Archives Générales de Médecine*, Nov. 1838.

of the ovarists, are:—*First*. The resemblance of the child to the father—a subject which we shall refer to presently. The ovarists cannot of course deny that such resemblance exists; and they ascribe it to the modifying influence exerted by the male sperm, but without being able to explain the nature of such influence. They affirm, however, that the likeness to the mother is more frequent and evident. Certain cases of resemblance are, indeed, weighty stumbling-blocks to ovism, or to the doctrine of a pre-existing germ in the female. It is a well-known fact, that six-fingered men beget six-fingered children. How can we explain this upon the principle of the pre-existence of the germ in the female, and of the part played by the male sperm being simply that of a vivifying agent? and must we suppose, in the case of monstrosities, that such germs have been originally monstrous? *Secondly*. The production of *hybrids* is one of the strongest counter-arguments. They are produced by the union of the male and female of different species. Of these, the mule is the most familiar instance—the product of the ass and the mare. This strikingly participates in the qualities of both parents, and, consequently, the pre-existing germ in the female must have been more than vivified by the sexual intercourse. Its structure must have been altogether changed, and all the germs of its future offspring annihilated, as the mule is seldom fertile. If a white woman marry a negro, the child is a mulatto, and if the successive generations of this woman be continually united to negroes, the progeny will ultimately become entirely black; or, at least, the white admixture will escape recognition. As a general rule, the offspring of different races has an intermediate tint between that of the parents: and the proportions of white and black blood, in different admixtures, have even been subjected to calculation, in countries where negroes are common. The following table represents these proportions, according to the principles sanctioned by custom.

Parents.	Offspring.	Degree of Mixture.
Negro and white,	mulatto,	$\frac{1}{2}$ white, $\frac{1}{2}$ black.
White and mulatto,	terceron,	$\frac{2}{3}$ — $\frac{1}{3}$ —
Negro and mulatto,	{ griffo or zambo, or } black terceron, }	$\frac{1}{4}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ —
White and terceron,	quarteron,	$\frac{3}{4}$ — $\frac{1}{4}$ —
Negro and terceron,	black quarteron,	$\frac{1}{4}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ —
White and quarteron,	quinteron,	$\frac{4}{5}$ — $\frac{1}{5}$ —
Negro and quarteron,	black quinteron,	$\frac{1}{5}$ — $\frac{4}{5}$ —

The two last, in the British West India Islands,<sup>a</sup> are considered to be respectively white and black; and of these the former were white by law, and consequently free, when slavery existed there. All these cases exhibit the influence exerted by the father upon the character of the offspring, and are great difficulties in the way of supposing that the male sperm is simply a vivifier of the germ pre-existing in the female.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Lectures on Physiology, Zoology, and the Natural History of Man, p. 299. Lond. 1819.

<sup>b</sup> Rudolphi, Grundriss der Physiologie, u. s. w., B. i. s. 54, Berlin, 1823; Burdach, Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, u. s. w., B. i. s. 516; and Berndt, art. Bastardthiere, in Encyclop. Wörterb., u. s. w., B. v. s. 53. Berlin, 1830.

*Thirdly.* The doctrine of the ovarists does not account for the greater degree of fertility of cultivated plants and of domesticated animals. *Fourthly.* The changes, induced by the succession of ages on the animal and vegetable species inhabiting the surface of the globe, have been adduced against this hypothesis. In examining the geological character of the various strata that compose the earth, it has been observed by geologists that many of these contain embedded the fossil remains of animals and vegetables. Now, those rocks on which others rest are the oldest, and the successive strata above these are more and more modern, and it has been found that the organic fossil remains in the different strata differ more and more from the present inhabitants of the surface of the globe in proportion to the depth we descend; and that the remains of those beings, that have always been the companions of man, are found only in the most recent of the alluvial deposits,—in the upper crust of the earth.

In the older rocks the impressions are chiefly of the less perfect plants—as the ferns and reeds; and of the lower animals—the remains of shells and corals; whilst fish are uncommon. In the more recent strata, the remains of reptiles, birds, and quadrupeds are apparent, but all of them differ essentially from the existing kinds, and in none of the formations of more ancient date has the fossil human skeleton been met with. The skeleton of the savage Galibi, conveyed from Guadaloupe and deposited in the British Museum, is embedded in a calcareous earth of modern formation; and the pretended human bones, conveyed by Spallanzani from the Island of Cerigo—the ancient Cythera—are not those of the human species, any more than the bones of the *Homo diluvii testis* of Scheuchzer. Hence it has been concluded, that man is of a date posterior to animals in all countries where fossil bones have been discovered.\* These singular facts, furnished by modern geological inquiry, have been attempted to be explained by the supposition, that the present races of animals are the descendants of those whose remains are met with in the rocks, and that their difference of character may have arisen from some change in the physical constitution of the atmosphere, or of the surface of the earth, producing a corresponding change in the forms of organized beings. It has been properly remarked, however, by Dr. Fleming,<sup>b</sup> that the effect of circumstances on the appearance of living beings is circumscribed within certain limits, so that no transmutation of species was ever ascertained to have taken place, whilst the fossil species differ as much from the recent kinds as the last do from each other; and he adds, that it remains for the abettors of the opinion to connect the extinct with the living races, by ascertaining the intermediate links or transitions. This will probably never be practicable. The difference, indeed, between the extinct and the living races is in several cases so extreme, that many naturalists have preferred believing in the occasional formation of new organized beings.

\* Principles of Geology, by Charles Lyell, Esq., F. R. S., i. 241, 4th edit., Lond. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> Philosophy of Zoology, i. 26, Edinb. 1822. See, on this subject, Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation, Amer. edit., New York, 1845; and sequel to the same, New York, 1846.

Linnæus was bold enough to affirm, that, in his time, more species of vegetables were in existence than in antiquity, and hence, that new vegetable species must necessarily have been ushered into being; and Willdenow embraced the views of Linnæus. De Lamarck,<sup>a</sup> one of the most distinguished naturalists of the day, openly professes his belief, that both animals and vegetables are incessantly changing under the influence of climate, food, domestication, the crossing of breeds, &c., and he remarks, that if the species now in existence appear to us fixed in their characters, it is because the circumstances that modify those species demand an enormous time for action, and would consequently require numerous generations to establish the fact. The manifest effect of climate, food, &c., on vegetables and animals, he thinks, precludes the possibility of denying those changes on theoretical considerations; and what we call *lost species* are, in his view, only the actual species before they experienced modification. It is proper, however, to observe, that the representations on the wall of one of the sepulchres in the valley of Beban el Molook, at Thebes, which are regarded by Champollion as having been executed upwards of two thousand years before the Christian era, enable the features of the Jew and the negro, amongst others, to be recognised as easily as the representations of their descendants of the present day; so that, for the space of at least three thousand eight hundred years, no modification of the kind referred to by Lamarck seems to have occurred in the human species.

Another explanation has been offered for these geological facts, and for the rotation, which we observe in the vegetable occupants of particular soils in successive years. It has been supposed, that as the seeds of plants and the ova of certain animals are so excessively minute as to penetrate wherever water or air can enter; and as they are capable of retaining the vital principle for an indefinite length of time, of which we have many proofs, and of undergoing evolution whenever circumstances are favourable, the crust of the earth may be regarded as a receptacle of germs, each of which is ready to expand into vegetable or animal forms, on the occurrence of conditions necessary for their developement. This is the hypothesis of *panspermia* or *dissemination of germs*, according to which the germs of the ferns and reeds were first expanded, and afterwards those of the stamiferous or more perfect vegetables; and, in the animal kingdom, first the zoophyte, and gradually the being more elevated in the scale; the organized bodies of the first period flourishing, so long as the circumstances favourable to their developement continued, and then making way for the evolution of their successors,—the changes effected in the soil by the growth and decay of the former probably favouring the evolution of the latter; which, again, retained possession of the soil so long as circumstances were propitious.<sup>b</sup> The changes that take place in forest vegetation are favourable to this doctrine. If, in Virginia, the forest trees be removed so as to make

<sup>a</sup> Philosophie Zoologique, edit. cit., tom. i.; and Lyell's Principles of Geology, ii. 407.

<sup>b</sup> Fleming, op. citat., i. 28; and Purkinje, art. Erzeugung, in Encycl. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch., xi. 537, Berlin, 1834.

way for other growth, and the ground be prepared for the first cultivation, the *Phytolacca decandra* or *poke*, which was not previously perceptible on the land, usurps the whole surface. When Mr. Madison went with General Lafayette to the Indian treaty, they discovered that wherever trees had been blown down by a hurricane, in the spring, white clover had sprung up in abundance, although the spot was many miles distant from any cleared land; and it has often been remarked, that where, during a drought in the spring, the woods have taken fire and the surface of the ground has been torrefied, the water-weed has made its appearance in immense quantities, and occupied the burnt surface. The late Judge Peters, having occasion to cut ditches on his land, in the western part of Pennsylvania, was surprised to find every subterraneous tree that was met with different from those at the time occupying the surface; and President Madison informed the author, that, in the space of sixty or seventy years, he had noticed the following spontaneous rotation of vegetables:—1. Mayweed; 2. Blue centaury; 3. Bottle-brush-grass; 4. Broom-straw; 5. White clover; 6. Wild carrot; and the last was then giving way to the blue grass.<sup>a</sup>

The doctrine of panspermia is, however, totally inapplicable to the viviparous animal, in which the ovum is hatched within the body, and which, consequently, continues to live after the birth of its progeny; and the facts furnished by geology seem clearly to show, that the developement of the animal kingdom has been successive, not simultaneous; but, under what circumstances the different animals were successively ushered into being, we know not.

Lastly, as regards the ovarists themselves;—they differ in essential points: whilst some are favourable to the doctrine of the *dissemination of germs*, believing, as we have seen, that ova or germs are disseminated over all space, and that they only undergo developement under favourable circumstances, as when they meet with bodies capable of retaining them, and causing their growth, or which resemble themselves; others assert, that the germs are enclosed in each other, and that they are successively aroused from their torpor, and called into life, by the influence of the seminal fluid; so that not only did the ovary of the first female contain the ova of all the children she had, but one only of these ova contained the whole of the human race. This was the celebrated system of *emboîtement des germes* or *encasing of germs*, of which Bonnet<sup>b</sup> was the propounder, and Spallanzani the promulgator. Yet how monstrous for us to believe, that the first female had, within her, the germs of all mankind, born, and to be born; or to conceive, that a grain of Indian corn contains within it all the seed, that may hereafter result from its culture. In this strange hypothesis—as Professor Elliotson<sup>c</sup> observes—there must have been an uncommon store of germs prepared at the beginning, for the ovaria of a single sturgeon have contained 1,467,500 ova.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Prichard, *Researches on the Physical History of Man*, i. 39; and Carpenter, *Principles of General and Comparative Physiology*, 2d edit., Lond. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> *Considérat. sur les Corps Organisés*, vol. i. & ii., Amst. 1762.

<sup>c</sup> Blumenbach's *Physiology*, by Elliotson, 4th edit. p. 494, Lond. 1828.

<sup>d</sup> Petit, *Mémoire de l'Académie des Sciences*, 1733.

Many of the ovarists, again, and they alone have any thing like probability in their favour, believe, that the female forms her own ova, as the male forms his own sperm, by a secretory action; and, so far as the female is concerned in the generative process, we shall find that this is the only philosophical view; but it is imperfect in not admitting of more than a vivifying action in the materials furnished by the male.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, Hamme or Van Hammen, Leeuwenhoek<sup>a</sup> and Hartsöker,<sup>b</sup> discovered a prodigious number of small moving bodies in the sperm of animals, which they regarded as animalcules.<sup>c</sup> This gave rise to a new system of generation, directly the reverse of that of Harvey,—that of generation *ab animalculo maris*. As, in the Harveian doctrine, the germ was conceived to be furnished by the mother and the vivifying influence to be alone exerted by the male, so, in this doctrine, the entire formation was regarded as the work of the father, the mother affording nothing more than a nidus, and appropriate pabulum for the homunculus or rudimental foetus.<sup>d</sup> The spermatic doctrine was soon embraced by Boerhaave, Keill, Cheyne, Wolff, Lieutaud, and others.<sup>e</sup> The pre-existing germ was accordingly now referred exclusively to the male; and, by some, the doctrine of *emboitement* or encasing was extended to it. In support of this hypothesis, the spermatists urged,—that the animalcules they discovered were peculiar to the semen, and that they exist in the sperm of all animals capable of generation; that they differ in different species, but are always identical in the sperm of the same animal, and in that of individuals of the same species; that they are not perceptible in the sperm of any animal until the age at which generation is practicable, whilst they are wanting in infancy and decrepitude; that their number is so considerable, that a drop of the sperm of a cock, scarcely equal in size to a grain of sand, contains 50,000; and lastly, that their minute size is no obstacle to the supposition, that generation is accomplished by them;—the disproportion between the trees of our forest and the seed producing them being nearly if not entirely as great as that between the animalcule and the being it has to develope. Leeuwenhoek estimated the dimensions of those of the frog at about the 1-10,000th part of a human hair, and that the milt of a cod may contain 15,000,000,000,000,000 of them. The difficulty with the spermatists or animalculists was to determine the mode in which the homunculus attains the ovary, and effects the work of reproduction. Whilst some asserted it to be only requisite, that the sperm should attain the uterus, whither it attracted the ovum from the ovarium; others imagined, that the animalcule travelled along the Fallopian tube to the ovary; entered one of the ovarian vesicles; shut itself up there for some time, and then returned

<sup>a</sup> Oper. iii. 285, and iv. 169, Lugd. Bat. 1722.

<sup>b</sup> Journal des Sçavans, pour 1678; and Essai de Dioptrique, p. 227, Paris, 1694.

<sup>c</sup> Haller, Element. Physiol. vol. vii. 27; Rudolphi, art. Animalcula Seminalia, in Encyclopæd. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft. ii. 597, Berlin, 1828; and Sprengel, Histoire de Médecine, par Jourdan, iv. 309, Paris, 1815.

<sup>d</sup> Mohrenheim, Nova Conceptionis atque Generationis Theoria, Regiom. 1794.

<sup>e</sup> Bostock's Physiology, 3d edit. p. 642, Lond. 1736.

into the cavity of the uterus, to undergo its first developement, through the medium of the nutritive substance contained in the vesicle; and a celebrated pupil of Leeuwenhoek even affirmed, that he not only saw these animalcules under the shape of the tadpole, as they were generally described, but that he could trace one of them, bursting through the envelope that retained it, and exhibiting two arms, two legs, a human head and a heart!<sup>a</sup>

Although this doctrine was extremely captivating, and, for a time, kept the minds of many eminent philosophers in a state of delusive enthusiasm; insomuch that Dr. Thomas Morgan,<sup>b</sup> in a work, published in 1731, thus expresses himself regarding it:—"that all generation is from an animalculum pre-existing in *semine maris*, is so evident in fact, and so well confirmed by experience and observation, that I know of no learned men, who in the least doubt of it;" it was soon strongly objected to by many; and the great fact on which it rested—the very existence of the spermatic animalcules—was, and is, strenuously contested. Linnæus<sup>c</sup> discredited the observations of Leeuwenhoek. Verheyen denied the existence of the animalcules, and undertook to demonstrate, that the motion, supposed to be traced in them, was a mere microscopic delusion:—whilst Needham<sup>d</sup> and Buffon regarded them as organic molecules.<sup>e</sup> Of late years, MM. Prévost and Dumas<sup>f</sup> have directed their attention to the subject; and their investigations, as on every other topic of physiological inquiry, are worthy of the deepest regard. The results of their examinations led them to confirm the existence of these animalcules, and likewise to consider them as the direct agents of fecundation. By means of the microscope they detected them in all the animals, whose sperm they examined, and these were numerous. Whether the fluid were observed after its excretion by a living animal, or after its death, in the vas deferens or in the testicle, the animalcules were detected in it with equal facility. They consider these bodies to be characteristic of the sperm, as they found them only in that secretion; being wanting in every other humour of the body, even in those that are excreted with the sperm, as the fluids of the prostate, and of the glands of Cowper; and although similar in shape, and size, and in the character of their locomotion in the individuals of the same species, they are of various shapes and dimensions in different species. In passing through the series of genital organs these animalcules experience no change, being as perfect in the testicle as at the time of their excretion; and the remark of Leeuwenhoek, that they are met with apparently of different ages, is unfounded. The animalcules were manifestly endowed with spontaneous motion, which gradually ceased, in the sperm obtained during life by ejaculation, in the course of two or three hours; in that taken from the vessels after

<sup>a</sup> Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. cit. iv. 94.

<sup>b</sup> *Mechanical Practice of Physic*, Lond. 1735.

<sup>c</sup> *Bostock's Physiology*, 3d edit. p. 643, London, 1836.

<sup>d</sup> *New Microscopical Discoveries*, Lond. 1745.

<sup>e</sup> Haller, *Element. Physiologiæ*, xxvii.

<sup>f</sup> *Mém. de la Société Physique de Genève*, i. 180, and *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, tom. i. and ii.



death, in fifteen or twenty minutes, and in eighteen or twenty hours, when left in its own vessels after death. In farther proof of the position, that these animalcules are the fecundating agents, MM. Prévost and Dumas assert, that they are only met with whilst reproduction is practicable:—that, in the human species, they are not found in infancy or decrepitude; and, in the majority of birds, are only apparent in the sperm, at the periods fixed for their copulation; facts which, in their opinion, show, that they are not mere infusory animalcules. MM. Prévost and Dumas moreover affirm, that they appear to be connected with the physiological condition of the animal furnishing them; their motions being rapid or languishing, according as the animal was young or old, or in a state of health or disease. They state, also, that in their experiments on the ova of the mammiferous animal, they observed animalcules filling the cornua of the uterus, and remaining there alive and moving, until the ovule descended into that organ, when they gradually disappeared; and they argue in favour of the influence of these animalcules,—that the positive contact of the sperm is necessary for fecundation, and that the aura seminis is totally insufficient; that the sperm, in twenty-four hours, loses its fecundating property, and it requires about this length of time for the animalcules to gradually cease their movements and perish; and, lastly, that having destroyed the animalcules in the sperm, the fluid lost its fecundating property. One of these experiments consisted in killing all the animalcules in a spermized fluid, whose fecundating power had been previously tested by repeated discharges of a Leyden phial: another consisted in placing a spermized fluid on a quintuple filter, and repeating this until all the animalcules were retained on the filter; when it was found, that the fluid, which passed through, had no fecundating power, whilst the portion retained by the filter had the full faculty; a result that had been obtained by Spallanzani, who found, besides, that he was capable of effecting fecundation with water in which the papers, used as filters, had been washed. M. Donné\* has investigated the mode in which the *zoospermes* are affected in the blood, the milk, the vaginal and uterine mucus in the healthy state, in the purulent matter of chancres, and of blennorrhœa, in the saliva, urine, &c. He observed these animalcules continue to live, and to move in some of those fluids, whilst in others they died instantaneously. For instance, the blood, milk and pus did not affect them: in the mucus of the vagina and uterus they generally lived well; but in the saliva and urine they died almost instantaneously. He affirms, too, that there are cases in which the mucus of the vagina and uterus acquires properties that are deleterious to the *zoospermes*, and is of opinion, that this is a cause of sterility. This deleterious property, according to M. Donné, occasionally resides in the vaginal mucus; but at others, in a still higher degree in the mucus of the uterus: he endeavoured to discover, whether the mucus of the two membranes presented any peculiar characters or signs of disease, and states, that he particularly noticed the excessive acidity of the one, and the marked alkaline cha-

\* Gazette Médicale de Paris, No. xxii., 3 Juin, 1837; and Cours de Microscopie, Paris, 1845.

racter of the other. The mucus secreted by the vagina as far as the orifice of the os uteri differed from that which flowed from within the cervix uteri, independently of its physical characters, by a different reaction. M. Donné found the vaginal mucus always acid—the uterine always alkaline, and he thinks, that the deleterious influence exerted by them on the *zoospermes* depended on excess of acidity in the one, and excess of alkali in the other. All this, however, it need scarcely be said, requires substantiation. Professor Wagner,<sup>a</sup> who has entered at great length into the consideration of the spermatozooids, accords with the general conclusions of M. Donné: some of his experiments, however—instituted for the most part on the spermatozooids of the lower animals—led him to different conclusions. He found, for example, that they almost always lived in saliva; also in urine when it was kept warm and was not too concentrated. He has repeatedly detected them in the urine of persons whom he suspected of masturbation. Dr. John Davy<sup>b</sup> states, that on examining the fluid from the urethra after stool in a healthy man, he had always detected spermatozooids in it; and Dr. Robt. Willis<sup>c</sup> asserts, that under the same circumstances, and even after the mere evacuation of the bladder, he has several times discovered spermatozooids in the fluid of the urethra; but the subjects of his observation were never strong or healthy men; they mostly laboured under anomalous nervous symptoms, which, he thinks, were in all likelihood connected with an irritable or disordered state of the vesiculæ seminales and prostatic part of the urethra.

MM. Prévost and Dumas, and Rolando, conjecture, that the spermatic animalcule forms the nervous system of the new being, and that the ovule furnishes only the cellular framework in which the organs are formed; but this is mere hypothesis. The essays of these ingenious experimenters would seem to prove the existence of peculiar bodies in the sperm, and their apparent agency in the generative process; yet, as we have before seen, (page 362 of this volume,) all this may well be questioned, and Raspail<sup>d</sup> is even disposed to regard the fancied animalcules as mere shreds of the tissues of the generative organs ejaculated with the sperm.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that all the objections, which were urged against the system of the ovarists, as regards the proof in favour of an active participation of both sexes in the work of reproduction, are equally applicable to the views of those who refer generation exclusively to the spermatozooids.<sup>e</sup>

Such are the chief theories that have been propounded on the subject of generation. It has been already observed, that the particular modifications are almost innumerable. They may all, however, be classed with more or less consanguinity under some of the doctrines enumerated. Facts and arguments are strongly against any view that refers the whole process of formation to either sex. There must be a union of materials furnished by both, otherwise it is impossible

<sup>a</sup> Elements of Physiology, translated by Dr. Willis, p. 20, Lond. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. i.

<sup>c</sup> Wagner, op. citat. p. 21, (note.)

<sup>d</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 389. Paris, 1833.

<sup>e</sup> Bardach, Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, 2te Auflage, i. 112. Leipz. 1835.

to explain the similarity in conformation to both parents, which is often so manifest. Accordingly, this modified view of epigenesis is now adopted by most physiologists;—that at a fecundating copulation, the secretion of the male is united to a material, furnished by the ovary of the female; that from the union of these elements the embryo results, impressed, from the very instant of such union, with life, and with an impulse to a greater or less resemblance to this or that parent, as the case may be; and that the material, furnished by the female, is as much a secretion resulting from the peculiar organization of the ovary, as the sperm is from that of the testicle,—life being susceptible, in this manner, of communication from father to child, without there being a necessity for invoking the incomprehensible and revolting doctrine of the pre-existence of germs. This admixture of the materials furnished by both sexes accounts for the likeness that the child may bear to either parent, whatever may be the difficulty in understanding the precise mode in which they act in the formation of the fœtus. It has been attempted, however, by some, to maintain, that the influence of the maternal imagination during a fecundating copulation may be sufficient to impress the germ within her with the necessary impulse; and the plea has been occasionally urged in courts of justice. Of this we have an example in a well-known case, tried in New York, between 30 and 40 years ago. A mulatto woman was delivered of a female bastard child, which became chargeable to the authorities of the city. When interrogated, she stated that a black man of the name of Whistelo was the father, who was accordingly apprehended, for the purpose of being assessed with the expenses. Several physicians, who were summoned before the magistrates, gave it as their opinion that it was not his child, but the offspring of a white man. Dr. S. Mitchell, however, who, according to Dr. Beck, seemed to be a believer in the influence of the imagination over the fœtus, thought it probable that the negro was the father. Owing to this difference of sentiment, the case was carried before the mayor, recorder, and several aldermen. It appeared in evidence, that the colour of the child was somewhat dark, but lighter than the generality of mulattoes, and that its hair was straight, and had none of the peculiarities of the negro race. The court very properly decided in favour of Whistelo, and of course against the testimony of Dr. Mitchell, who, moreover, maintained, that as alteration of complexion has occasionally been noticed in the human subject,—as of negroes turning partly white,—and in animals, so this might be a parallel instance.\* The opinion does not seem, however, entitled to much greater estimation than that of the poor Irishwoman, in a London police report, who ascribed the fact of her having brought forth a thick-lipped, woolly-headed urchin to her having eaten some black potatoes during her pregnancy!

It is obvious, that the effect of the maternal imagination can only be invoked—by those who believe in its agency on the future

\* Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, 6th edition, i. 500, Philad. 1838. See, also, for some ridiculous stories of this kind, Demangeon, *Du Pouvoir de l'Imagination sur la Physique et le Moral de l'Homme*, p. 201. Paris, 1834.

appearance of the foetus—in the case of those animals in which copulation is a part of the process. Where the eggs are first extruded and then fecundated, all such influence must be out of the question; and even in the viviparous animal, we have seen that experiments on artificial impregnation have shown, not only that the bitch has been fecundated by sperm injected into the vagina, but that the resulting young have manifestly resembled the dog, whence the sperm had been obtained.<sup>a</sup> But the strongest case in favour of the influence of the maternal imagination is given by Sir Everard Home.<sup>b</sup> An English mare was covered by a quaga,—a species of wild ass from Africa, which is marked somewhat like the zebra. This happened in the year 1815, in the park of Earl Morton, in Scotland. The mare was only covered once; went eleven months, four days, and nineteen hours, and the produce was a hybrid, marked like the father. The hybrid remained with the dam for four months, when it was weaned and removed from her sight. She probably saw it again in the early part of 1816, but never afterwards. In February, 1817, she was covered by an Arabian horse, and had her first foal—a filly. In May, 1818, she was covered again by the same horse, and had a second. In June, 1819, she was covered again, but this year missed; but in May, 1821, she was covered a fourth time, and had a third;—all being marked like the quaga. Similar facts have been alluded to by other writers.<sup>c</sup> Haller<sup>d</sup> remarks, that the female organs of the mare seem to be corrupted by the unequal copulation with the ass, as the young foal of a horse from a mare, which previously had a mule by an ass, has something asinine in the form of its mouth and lips; and Becher<sup>e</sup> says, that when a mare has had a mule by an ass, and afterwards a foal by a horse, there are evidently marks, in the foal, of the mother having retained some ideas of her former paramour—the ass; whence such horses are commended on account of their tolerance and other similar qualities. It has been even affirmed, that the human female, when twice married, occasionally bears children to the second husband, which resemble the first both in bodily structure and mental powers.<sup>f</sup> The mode in which the influence is exerted, in this and similar cases, is unfathomable; and the fact itself, although indisputable, is astounding. Sir Everard Home<sup>g</sup> thinks, that it is one of the strongest proofs of the effect of the mind of the mother upon her young that has ever been recorded. Although we are totally incapable of suggesting any satisfactory solution, it appears to us more probable, that the impression must have been made in these cases on the genital system, and probably upon the ovaria, rather than upon the mind of the animal.<sup>h</sup> Yet it must be admitted, that this explanation is not sufficient

<sup>a</sup> See page 397 of this volume.

<sup>b</sup> *Philosoph. Transact.* for 1821, p. 21; and *Lectures on Comparative Anatomy*, iii. 307.

<sup>c</sup> See a case of the kind, as regards the dog, in "The Dog and the Sportsman," by J. S. Skinner, p. 19. *Philad.* 1845.

<sup>d</sup> *Element. Physiol.*, viii. 104.

<sup>e</sup> *Physic. Subterr.* Lips. 1703.

<sup>f</sup> See art. Generation, by Dr. Allen Thomson, *Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol.*, part xiii, p. 468, for Feb. 1838.

<sup>g</sup> *Lectures, &c.*, iii. 308.

<sup>h</sup> See, on the Theories of Generation, Buffon, *Nat. Hist.* vol. ii. chap. v.; Kirt Sprengel's *Hist. de la Médecine*, Jourdan's translation, i. 231, Paris, 1815; Dr. A. Thomson, *op. cit.* p. 427; Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. p. 81, Paris, 1829; Meigs, *Phila-*

to account for a case, which has been given by a recent writer.\* As Dr. Hugh Smith, of England, was travelling in the country, the dogs, as is customary, ran out and barked as he passed through a village, and amongst these he observed a little ugly cur, "that was particularly eager to ingratiate himself with a setter bitch that accompanied him. While stopping to water his horse he remarked how amorous the cur continued, and how courteous the setter continued to her admirer." Provoked at the sight, he shot the cur, and carried the bitch on horseback for several miles. "From that day, however, she lost her appetite; ate little or nothing; had no inclination to go abroad with her master, or to attend to his call; but seemed to pine like a creature in love, and express sensible concern for the loss of her gallant. Partridge came; but Dido had no nose. Some time after, she was put to a setter of great excellence, which had, with great difficulty, been procured for the purpose; yet not a puppy did Dido bring forth, which was not the picture and colour of the cur, that the Doctor had, many months before, destroyed; and in many subsequent litters, Dido never produced a whelp that was not exactly similar to the unfortunate cur already mentioned!"

d. *Conception*.—Conception usually takes place without the slightest consciousness on the part of the female; and hence the difficulty of reckoning the precise period of gestation. Certain signs, as shivering, pains about the umbilicus, &c., are said to have occasionally denoted its occurrence; but these are rare exceptions, and the indications afforded by one female are often extremely different from those presented by another. In those animals, in which generation is only accomplished during a period of generative excitement, the period of conception can be determined with accuracy; for, in by far the majority of such cases, a single copulation will fecundate,—the existence of the state of *heat* indicating, that the generative organs are ripe for conception. In the human female, where the sexual intercourse can take place at all periods, conception is by no means as likely to follow a single intercourse; for, although she may be always susceptible of fecundation, her genital organs are rarely, perhaps, so powerfully excited as in the animal during the season of love. It is not for the physiologist to inquire into the morbid causes of sterility in either male or female; nor is it desirable to relate all the visionary notions which have prevailed regarding the circumstances that favour conception. The ovarian conditions under which it is effected have already been canvassed under Fecundation.

It has been attempted to ascertain what age and season are most prolific. From a register kept by Dr. Bland, of London, it would appear, that more women between the ages of twenty-six and thirty years, bear children than at any other period. Of two thousand one hundred and two women delivered, eighty-five were from fifteen to twenty years of age; five hundred and seventy-eight from twenty-one to twenty-five; six hundred and ninety-nine from twenty-six to thirty; four hundred and seven from thirty-one to thirty-five; two

delphia Practice of Midwifery, p. 83, Philad. 1838; Seiler, in art. *Erzeugung*, in *Pierer*, *Anat. Physiol. Wörterb.* ii. 802, Leipz. und Altenb. 1818; and Breschet, in *l'Art de Procréer les Sexes à Volonté*, par Millot. Paris, 1829. \* J. S. Skinner, *op. cit.* p. 19.

hundred and ninety-one from thirty-six to forty; thirty-six from forty-one to forty-five; and six from forty-six to forty-nine. At Marseilles, according to Raymond, women conceive most readily in autumn, and chiefly in October; next in summer; and lastly in winter and spring,—the month of March having fewest conceptions. Morand says, that July, May, June, and August, are the most frequent months for conception; and November, March, April, and October, successively, the least frequent. At the Havana, according to tables by the author's friend, Don Ramon de la Sagra,<sup>a</sup> the monthly number of births, amongst the white population, during a period of five years,—from 1825 to 1829 inclusive—was in the following order:—October, September, November, December, August, July, June, April, May, January, March, and February. February, January, March, and April are, therefore, the most frequent months for conception at the Havana; June, July, May, and September the least so. Dr. Burns<sup>b</sup> asserts, that the register for ten years of an extensive parish in Glasgow, renders it probable that August and September are most favourable for conception. M. Villermé, from an estimate founded on eight years' observations in France, comprising 7,651,437 births, makes the ratio of conceptions as follows:—May, June, April, July, February, March and December, January, August, November, September, and October:—and Dr. Gouverneur Emerson,<sup>c</sup> who has employed himself most profitably on the Medical Statistics of Philadelphia, has furnished a table of the number of births, during each month, for the ten years ending in 1830; according to which, the numbers are in the following order: December, September, January, March, October, August, November, February, July, May, April, and June,—the greatest number of conceptions occurring, consequently, in April, January, and May,—the least in October, August, and September.

The proportion will of course be regulated to a great extent by the marriages. In England,<sup>d</sup> the greatest number of these occurs in autumn, and consequently we should expect the ratio of births to be greatest in winter, which is the fact. The following table shows the relative number, corrected for inequality of time, of marriages, births, and deaths, in the seasons of the year.

	Autumn.	Spring.	Summer.	Winter.
Marriages, -	36,306	31,355	29,634	25,482
Births, -	131,257	129,677	121,053	120,356

The human female is uniparous,—one ovum only, as a general rule, being fecundated: numerous other animals are multiparous, or bring forth many at a birth. The law, however, on this subject is not fixed. Occasionally, the human female will bring forth twins, triplets, or quadruplets, whilst the multiparous animal is not always delivered of the same number. It is impossible to account for those differences. The ovarists refer them to the female; the animalculists to the male; and facts have been found to support both views. Cer-

<sup>a</sup> Historia Economico-Politica y Estadística de la Isla de Cuba. Habana, 1833.

<sup>b</sup> Principles of Midwifery, 3d edit. p. 126, London, 1814.

<sup>c</sup> Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, for Nov. 1831.

<sup>d</sup> Fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General, &c., London, 1843.

tain females, who have been frequently married, have been multiparous with each husband; and analogous facts have occurred to males under similar circumstances. Ménage cites the case of a man, whose wife brought him twenty-one children in seven deliveries; and the same individual having impregnated his servant-maid, she brought forth triplets likewise. It is asserted that, in 1755, a peasant was presented to the Empress of Russia, who was seventy years of age, and had been twice married. His first wife had fifty-seven children at twenty-one births. In four deliveries she had four children at each; in seven, three; and in six, two. This appears to be the *ne plus ultra* of such cases! In the *Hospice de la Maternité*, of Paris, it has been observed, that twins occur once in about eighty cases. In the Westminster Hospital, the same ratio has been found to prevail. In 1840, of 547,293 births in the kingdom of Prussia, 6,381 were twin cases, or 1 in 90. In the British Lying-in Hospital, the proportion was not greater than 1 in 91; whilst in the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, the cases were nearly twice as frequent, or about 1 in 57. Dr. Collins' remarks on the singular circumstance, that in Ireland, the proportional number of women giving birth to twins, is nearly a third greater than in any other country of which he had been able to obtain authentic records. He states the proportion in France to be *one* in every 95 births; in Germany, *one* in 80; in England, *one* in 92; in Scotland, *one* in 95; and in Ireland, *one* in 62. Of 129,172 women delivered in the Lying-in Hospital, Dublin, 2062 gave birth to twins; 29 produced three at a birth, which is in the proportion of *one* in 4450; and *one* only gave birth to *four*. In this country, the average of twin cases, according to Dr. Dewees, is about 1 in 75. Triplet cases were found to occur in the *Hospice de la Maternité*, of Paris, about once in 9000 times; and in the Dublin Hospital once in 5050 times; the balance, again, being largely in favour of the prolific powers of the Irish. Dr. Dewees affirms, that in more than 9000 cases, he had not met with an instance of triplets. Of 36,000 cases in the *Hospice de la Maternité* not one brought forth four children; yet there are cases on record where five have been born at a birth.<sup>b</sup> Beyond this number the tales of authors ought perhaps to be esteemed fabulous.

In referring to the following table, it will be found to be a general rule amongst quadrupeds, that the largest and most formidable bring forth the fewest young, and that the lower tribes are unusually fruitful,—the number produced compensating, in some measure, for their natural feebleness, which renders them constantly liable to destruction. On the other hand, were the larger species to be as prolific as the smaller, the latter would soon be blotted from existence. What would have been the condition of animated nature, if the gigantic mastodon, once the inhabitant of our plains, could have

<sup>a</sup> A Practical Treatise on Midwifery, London, 1835: republished in Bell's Select Library, Philad. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Garthshore, in Philos. Transact. for 1787, Kleinert's Repertorium, cited in Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, Feb. 1838, p. 459; also, *Bulletino delle Scienze Mediche*, Agosto e Settembre, 1838, cited in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1839, p. 564; and J. G. Rattel, in *Zeitschrift der Staatsarzneikunde*, 1844, cited in Lond. Med. Gazette, August, 1845.

engendered as frequently and as numerously as the rabbit! For wise purposes, it has also been ordained that the more formidable animals seldom begin the work of reproduction until they have nearly attained their full size; whilst those that bring forth many commence much earlier. Lastly, there is some correspondence, likewise, between the duration of gestation and the size of the animal.

Animals.	Duration of Gestation.	Number of Young.	Animals.	Duration of Gestation.	Number of Young.
Ape . . .	about 9 months,	1	Lioness . . .	. . . . .	4 or 5
Bat . . .	. . . . .	2	Tigress . . .	. . . . .	4 or 5
Rat . . .	5 or 6 weeks,	5 or 6	Cat . . .	8 weeks,	4 or 5
Mouse . . .	. . . . .	6 to 10	Seal . . .	. . . . .	2
Hare . . .	30 days,	4 or 5	Mare . . .	11 months	1
Rabbit . . .	Do.	Do.		and some days,	
Guinea-pig . . .	3 weeks,	5 to 12	Ewe . . .	5 months,	1 or 2
Squirrel . . .	6 weeks,	4 or 5	Goat . . .	4½ months,	1, 2, or 3
Mole . . .	. . . . .	4 or 5	Cow . . .	9 months,	1 or 2
Bear . . .	. . . . .	2 or 3	Reindeer . . .	8 months,	2
Otter . . .	9 weeks,	4 or 5	Hind . . .	Do.	1 or 2
Bitch . . .	9 weeks,	4 to 10	Sow . . .	4 months,	6 to 12
Ferret . . .	6 weeks,	6 or 7		and more	
Wolf . . .	10 weeks,	5 to 9	Camel . . .	12 months,	1
Opossum . . .	. . . . .	4 or 5	Walrus . . .	9 months,	1
Kangaroo . . .	. . . . .	1	Elephant . . .	2 years,	1
Jackall . . .	. . . . .	6 to 8	Whale . . .	9 or 10 months,	1 or 2*
Fox . . .	10 weeks,	4 or 5			

Conception being entirely removed from all influence of volition, it is obviously impracticable, by any effort of the will, either to modify the sex of the fœtus or its general physical and moral characters. Yet idle and absurd schemes have been devised for both one and the other. The older philosophers, as Hippocrates and Aristotle, believed that the right testicle and ovary furnish the rudiments of males, and the same organs, on the left side, those of females: some of the old writers, *de Re Rusticâ*, assert, indeed, that such was the result of their experiments with the ram. These statements gave rise to a pretended "art of procreating the sexes at pleasure," which has even been seriously revived in our own time. Mr. John Hunter published an experiment in the *Philosophical Transactions*, which was instituted for the purpose of determining whether the number of young be equally divided between the ovaria. He took two sows from the same litter, deprived one of an ovarium, and counted the number of pigs each produced during its life. The sow with two ovaria had one hundred and sixty-two: the spayed sow only seventy-six. Hence he inferred that each ovarium had nearly the same proportion. In this experiment, he makes no mention of the interesting fact regarding the proportion of the males in the two cases, and whether they were not all of the same sex in the sow that had been spayed. Had his attention been drawn to this point, the results would doubtless have been sufficient to arrest the strange hypothesis brought forward by Millot,<sup>b</sup> who boldly

\* See, on this subject, Dr. Laycock, on the *Nervous Diseases of Women*, p. 48, Lond. 1840.

<sup>b</sup> Millot, *l'Art de Procréer les Sexes à Volonté*; nouvelle édit., par M. Brouchet, Paris, 1829.



affirmed, that males are produced by the right ovary, and females by the left; asserting, that he could so manage the position of the woman during copulation, that she should certainly have a boy or girl, as might have been determined upon: and he published the names of mothers, who had followed his advice, and had succeeded in their wishes! A case, related by Dr. Granville, of London, to the Royal Society<sup>a</sup> has, however, completely exhibited the absurdity of this doctrine. A woman, forty years of age, died at the *Hospice de la Maternité* of Paris, six or seven days after delivery, of what had been supposed to be a disease of the heart. The body was opened in the presence of Dr. Granville, and the disease was found to be aneurism of the aorta. On examining the uterus, it was discovered to be at least four times the size of what it is during the unimpregnated state. It had acquired its full development on the right side only, where it had the usual pyriform convexity; whilst the left formed a straight line scarcely half an inch distant from the centre, although it was more than two inches from the same point to the outline of the right side. The Fallopian tube and the ovary, with the other parts on the right side, had the natural appearance; but *they were not to be found on the left*. Yet this woman had been the mother of eleven children of both sexes, and a few days before her death had been delivered of twins,—one male and one female.<sup>b</sup> M. Jadelot, too, has given the dissection of a female, who had been delivered of several children—boys and girls; yet she had no ovary or Fallopian tube on the right side. Lepelletier<sup>c</sup> asserts that he saw a similar case in the Hospital at Mans, in 1825, and the *Recueils* of the *Société de Médecine*, of Paris, contain the history of an extra-uterine gestation, in which a male fœtus was contained in the left ovary.

Independently of these decisive cases, it has been found, that when one of the ovaries has been entirely disabled by disease, the other has conceived of both sexes. In rabbits, an ovary has been removed; yet both male and female fœtuses have subsequently been engendered; and if the gravid uterus of one of those animals be examined, male and female fœtuses may be found in the same cornu of the uterus, all of which, owing to peculiar construction of the uterus,—the cornu forming the main part of the organ,—must manifestly have proceeded from the corresponding ovary. We are totally unaware, therefore, of the circumstances that give rise to the sex of the new being, although satisfied that it is in no respect influenced by the desires of the parents. We shall see, hereafter, that some distinguished physiologists believe, that the sex is not settled at the moment of conception, and that it is determined at a later period, after the embryo has undergone a certain development.

It is an ancient opinion, which seems to be in some measure confirmed by what we notice in certain animals, that the character of the offspring is largely dependent upon the moral and physical qualities of the parent; and a Dr. Robert, of Paris, in a dissertation under the pompous title of *Megalanthropogenesis*, has fancifully main-

<sup>a</sup> Philos. Transact. for 1808, p. 308.

<sup>b</sup> Sir E. Home, Lect. on Comp. Anat., iii. 300.

<sup>c</sup> Physiologie Médicale et Philosophique, iv. 333, Paris, 1833.

tained, that the race of men of genius may be perpetuated by uniting them to women possessed of the same faculties. Similar views are maintained by Claude Quillet.\* It is, also, an old view, that the procreative energy of the parents has much to do with the mental and corporeal activity of the offspring. Hence it is, that bastards have been presumed to excel in this respect. Such is the view of Burton,<sup>b</sup> and the same idea is put, by Shakspeare, into the mouth of Edmund.<sup>c</sup> This, we have no doubt, is erroneous. Much depends upon the condition of the parents as regards their organization and strength of constitution. The remark—"fortes creantur fortibus et bonis"—is true within certain limits; but we have no proof, that the ardour of the procreative effort can have any such influence; and the ratio of instances of bastards, who have been signalized for the possession of unusual vigour—mental or corporeal—to the whole number of illegitimates, is not greater than in the case of those born in wedlock.<sup>d</sup> It has been stated, too, that the number of male children is greater in cases of legitimate than of illegitimate births. Mr. Babbage<sup>e</sup> has compared the ratio in different countries, from which he has deduced the following table:—

	Legitimate Births.		Number of Births observed.	Illegitimate Births.		Number of Births observed.
	Females.	Males.		Females.	Males.	
France,	10,000	10,657	9,656,135	10,000	10,484	673,047
Naples,	10,000	10,452	1,059,055	10,000	10,267	51,309
Prussia,	10,000	10,609	3,672,251	10,000	10,278	212,804
Westphalia,	10,000	10,471	151,169	10,000	10,039	19,950
Montpellier,	10,000	10,707	25,064	10,000	10,081	2,735
Mean,	10,000	10,575	.	10,000	10,250	

Of 248,544 children registered in England,<sup>f</sup> 15,389 were illegitimate; so that 1 in 16 of the children born in England is not born in wedlock. In Austria, in the year 1843, 1 child in 4 was illegitimate, and in Vienna, 1 in 2.<sup>g</sup>

From the statistics of the *Gebäranstalt*, the Imperial Lying-in Hospital of Vienna, which is the great receptacle of illegitimate con-

\* Quilleti Callipædia, sive de Pulchræ Proliis Habendæ Ratione, &c. Lond. 1708.

<sup>b</sup> Anatomy of Melancholy, vol. ii.

<sup>c</sup> "Why brand they us

With base? with baseness? bastardy? base? base?

Who in the lusty stealth of nature take

More composition and fierce quality

Than doth within a dull, stale, tired bed

Go to the creating a whole tribe of fops

Got 'tween sleep and wake!"—*King Lear*, i. 2.

<sup>d</sup> Elliotson's Blumenbach's Physiology, 4th edit. p. 496, Lond. 1828.

<sup>e</sup> Brewster's Journal of Science, New Series, No. 1; and Quetelet, Sur l'Homme, i. 47, Paris, 1835.

<sup>f</sup> Fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in England, Lond. 1843.

<sup>g</sup> Knolz, Jahresbericht, u. s. w. in der Provinz Oesterreich unter der Enna, vom Jahre 1843, s. xlix. Wien, 1844.

ceptions, it would seem that the number of female children born there actually exceeds that of the males. Of 21,212 children born there in the seven years prior to 1838, the sexes were in the proportion of 10,584 males to 10,628 females.<sup>a</sup> It is proper, however, to remark, that the Registrar-General found the reverse of this to be the fact in England.<sup>b</sup> Of the legitimate births, the boys were to the girls as 105·4 to 100·0; whilst of the illegitimate, the boys were as 106·0 to 100·0. "It is, I believe, assumed"—he remarks—"in the French returns, that foundling children are illegitimate. If it be true, as is stated by those acquainted with the matter, that many of the children sent to the foundling hospitals in France are the offspring of married people, who probably abandon a greater proportion of girls than boys, it will follow;—*first*, that the proportion of children born out of wedlock is nearly the same in England as in France; and, *secondly*, that the inference from the returns of Continental States having foundling hospitals as to the relative predominance of females among natural children is fallacious." It is obvious, that these authoritative statistical conclusions must make us pause before we can regard it as at all established, that the ratio of boys to girls amongst illegitimate conceptions is less than amongst the legitimate.

To elucidate the effect of the condition of the parent on the future progeny, M. Girou de Buzareingues<sup>c</sup> gave a violent blow to a bitch, whilst lined, in consequence of which she was paraplegic for some days. She brought forth eight pups, all of which, except one, had the hind legs wanting, malformed, or weak. It has been attempted to show, also, that the corporeal vigour of the parents has much to do even with the future sex. M. Girou instituted a series of experiments on different animals, but especially on sheep, to discover, whether a greater number of male or female lambs may not be produced at the will of the agriculturist. The plan adopted to insure this result, was to employ very young rams in that division of the flock whence it was desired to obtain females; and strong and vigorous rams, of four or five years of age, in that from which males were to be procured. The result would seem to show, that the younger rams begat females in greater proportion, and the older, males. M. Girou asserts, that females commonly predominate amongst animals, that live in a state of "polygamy," and it is asserted, that the same fact has been observed, in Turkey and Persia, in our own species; but statistical data are wanting on this subject. These and other facts have seemed to prove, that in the act of generation, it is, as a general rule, the stronger individual that regulates the sex of the progeny. M. Moreau<sup>d</sup> has arrived at this conclusion as the result of long observation. He is of opinion that, to a certain extent, a boy

<sup>a</sup> Austria: its Literary, Scientific, and Medical Institutions, by W. R. Wilde, p. 22, note, Dublin, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Fifth Annual Report, &c., Lond. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Mémoire sur les Rapports des Sexes, &c., Paris, 1836; and a farther Memoir, in Revue Médicale, 1837; and Encyclograph. des Sciences Médicales, Janv. 1838. See, also, a notice of the first Memoir by Dr. G. Emerson, in Amer. Journ. of the Medical Sciences, p. 171, May, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., Oct. 1844; from L'Expérience, 4 Juillet, 1844.

or girl may be begotten at will by strengthening or weakening the father or mother, previous to the act of generation; and he states, that by acting on this rule he has seen in numerous instances his advice followed by the desired result.

From the researches of Hofacker and Sadler,<sup>b</sup> it would seem, that, as a general rule, when the mother is older than the father, fewer boys are born than girls, and the same is observed where they are of equal age; but the greater the excess of age on the part of the father, the greater will be the ratio of boys born.<sup>c</sup> The fact deduced from the observations of these gentlemen has been characterized by a recent writer as "one of the most remarkable contributions that have yet been made by statistics to physiology."<sup>d</sup> The following table gives the average results obtained by them; the numbers indicating the proportion of male births to 100 females.

	Hofacker.		Sadler.
Father younger than mother,	90.6	Father younger than mother,	86.5
Father and mother of equal age,	90.0	Father and mother of equal age,	94.8
Father older by 1 to 6 years,	103.4	Father older by 1 to 6 years,	103.7
6 to 9	124.7	6 to 11	126.7
9 to 18	143.7	11 to 16	147.7
18 and more,	200.0	16 and more,	163.2

It appears, that the general proportion of males born to the females is every where pretty nearly the same. The calculations of Hufeland give the numbers in Germany as 21 to 20; those of Girou, in France, make the proportion 21 to 19.69; and in Paris, 21 to 20.27; the census of Great Britain, taken in 1821, estimates it as 21 to 20.066, and the Registrar-General of England, in a recent report,<sup>e</sup> at 21 to 20.026. In the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, during ten years, the ratio was 21 to 19.33; in the Eastern District of the Royal Maternity Charity of London, during the year 1830, 21 to 19.64; and in the province of Austria, in the year 1823,<sup>f</sup> 21 to 20. In Philadelphia, according to the tables of Dr. Emerson,<sup>g</sup> the proportion from 1821 to 1830, was 21 to 19.43. In the whole of Europe it is estimated to be 21 to 19.61.<sup>h</sup> Although, however, a greater number of males may be born, they seem more exposed to natural or accidental death; for amongst adults the balance is much less in their favour, and, indeed, the number of adult females rather exceeds that of the males. Dr. Emerson<sup>i</sup> states, that of the children born in Phi-

<sup>a</sup> *Annales d'Hygiène*, p. 537, July, 1829.

<sup>b</sup> *The Law of Population*, ii. 343, Lond. 1830; and *Quetelet sur l'Homme*, i. 53. Paris, 1835.

<sup>c</sup> See, on this subject, Mr. A. Walker, *Intermarriage*, Amer. edit., p. 219. New York, 1839.

<sup>d</sup> Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 771. Lond. 1842.

<sup>e</sup> *Fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England*. Lond. 1843.

<sup>f</sup> Knolz, *op. cit.*

<sup>g</sup> *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, for Nov. 1835.

<sup>h</sup> *Quetelet, Sur l'Homme*, i. 43, Paris, 1835. See, also, *Transactions of the Statistical Society of London*, vol. i. Pt. i., Lond. 1837; and a notice of the volume by Dr. Emerson, in *Amer. Journ. of the Medical Sciences*, p. 444, for Feb. 1838; Dr. Allen Thomson, *art. Generation*, *Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol.*, part xiii. p. 478, Feb. 1838; and *Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, i. 587, 2te Auflage, Leipz. 1835.

<sup>i</sup> *Amer. Journ. of the Medical Sciences*, for Nov. 1835, p. 56.

Philadelphia, during the ten years included between 1821 and 1830, amounting, according to the returns made to the Board of Health, to 64,642, there were 2,496 more males than females. But, notwithstanding the males at birth exceeded the females about 7½ per cent., the census of 1830 shows, that by the fifth year, the male excess is reduced to about 5 per cent., and at ten years to only 1 per cent.; and that, reduction still going on, the females between the ages of 10 and 15 exceed the males about 8 per cent.; and between 15 and 20, 7·3 per cent.; facts, which clearly authorize the deduction of Quetelet,\* that during the early stages of life there are agencies operating to reduce the proportion of the male sex. Dr. Emerson's investigations exhibit clearly, that the greater liability of males to accidents did not furnish a sufficient reason for their greater mortality;—the deaths, reported in the Philadelphia bills, under the head of casualties, constituting but a small proportion of the whole mortality; and this—when burns and scalds are included—being more considerable in the case of the female. The gross male mortality under the twentieth year, for the ten years above mentioned, exceeded the female in the ratio of 7·94 per cent. The diseases, which seemed to be particularly obnoxious to the male sex, were, according to the Philadelphia bills, the following—arranged in the order of their decreasing mortality:—Inflammation of the brain, inflammation of the bowels, bronchitis, croup, inflammation of the lungs, fevers of all kinds (except scarlet), convulsions, general dropsy, dropsy of the head, and small-pox. To these sources of mortality may be added those under the head of casualties, and others vaguely designated debility, decay, &c. The few cases in which the deaths of females predominated were—consumption, dropsy of the chest, scarlet fever, burns and scalds, and hooping-cough.<sup>b</sup> In subsequent statistical researches on this interesting topic, Dr. Emerson<sup>c</sup> found, that in Philadelphia, the diseases, which prove especially fatal to male children, are— inflammation of the brain and its consequences, convulsions and hydrocephalus, inflammations of the lungs, stomach, bowels, &c., and fevers of all kinds, some of the eruptive excepted. On the other hand, the diseases in which the deaths of female children preponderate are few in number—the chief being hooping-cough, scarlet-fever, and consumption; whence he concludes, that the maladies most fatal to male children seem to be of the *sthenic* class,—to females, of the *asthenic*.

It would appear, that on the average, about one infant in twenty is still-born. The cause of this is a difficult inquiry; as well as that of the greater ratio—double—in cities than in the country; in some cities than in others; amongst male infants rather than females; in the winter than in the summer; amongst the illegitimate rather than the legitimate. It is an interesting topic of investigation for the me-

\* *Sur l'Homme*, i. 156. Paris, 1835.

<sup>b</sup> See, on this subject, W. Farr, in *Third Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England*, p. 72, Lond. 1841; and Mr. W. R. Wilde's Report upon the census of Ireland, for 1841, in *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ.*, April, 1845, p. 249.

<sup>c</sup> *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, for Jan. 1846, p. 92.

dical statistician.\* The following table, embracing the statistics of the Imperial Lying-in Hospital of Vienna, which, as before remarked, is the great receptacle for illegitimate conceptions, is interesting on account of the number of cases observed. It is given by Mr. Wilde,<sup>b</sup> who states, that it was collected and arranged with much care from the unpublished records of the hospital for the eight years ending Dec. 31, 1840, and exhibits the results of 25,906 deliveries, and 26,149 births.

## NUMBER OF DELIVERIES, 25,906.

Children,	{	Single births,		25,638	
		Twins, 248 times,		496, or 1 in 105.43	
		Triplets, 5 "		15, or 1 in 5229.8	
		Total births,		26,149.	
Sex in 23,413 births,	{	Boys, 11,717	Proportion of Males to 100 Females,	100.17	
	{	Girls, 11,696			
Sex of still-born children in 2201 births,	{	Boys, 48	Proportion of Males to 100 Females,	106.66	
	{	Girls, 45			
	{	Total, 93			
Total still-born in 23,413 births				939, or 1 in 24.92	
Died before the ninth day in 23,222				1482, or 1 in 15.66	
Sexes in 95 of these,	{	Boys, 49	Proportion of Males to 100 Females,	106.52	
	{	Girls, 46			
Abortions and premature deliveries in 25,705,	{			674, or 1 in 38.13	

It will be observed, that the ratio of still-born is smaller than the average; yet it is much higher than in the whole of the Austrian dominions, in which the proportion, according to Mr. Wilde, was 1 in 30.62; and according to Knolz,<sup>c</sup> in 1843, in the province of Austria, 1 in 36.4. It is difficult, however, to believe, that Mr. Wilde's statistics can be accurate, when we observe the ratio in Linz stated to be 1 in 155.35 only!<sup>d</sup>

A statistical contribution to obstetrical physiology has been recently made by Professor J. Y. Simpson, of Edinburgh,<sup>e</sup> which is full of interest in relation to this matter. From elaborate tables contained in Dr. Collins's Treatise on Midwifery, he deduces the following propositions. *First.* That the dangers and difficulties of parturition are greater to the mother in male than in female births. *Secondly.* That the dangers and accidents from parturition and its results are greater to the child in male than in female births: and *Thirdly.* That for the very marked difference between the difficulties and perils both to the child and the mother in male, from that which exists in female births, there is no other traceable cause in the me-

\* See an article on this subject by the author, in *American Med. Intelligencer*, for Sept. 1, 1837, p. 203, and *ibid.* Oct. 1, 1837, p. 252; Dr. Avery, in *Transact. of the Med. Society of the State of New York*, vol. iii., part ii., p. 179, Albany, 1837; Quetelet, *Sur l'Homme*, p. 122, Paris, 1835; *Brit. and For. Med. Review*, July, 1837, p. 234; Dr. Emerson, in *American Journ. of the Medical Sciences*, Feb. 1838, p. 444; and Prof. Rau, of Bern, *Ueber die Unnatürliche Sterblichkeit der Kinder in ihrem ersten Lebensjahre*, Bern, 1836, cited in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* April, 1839, p. 593; and Wilde's *Austria*.

<sup>b</sup> *Op. cit.*, &c., &c., p. 223.

<sup>d</sup> *Ibid.* 225.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>e</sup> *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal*, Oct. 1844.

chanism of parturition, except the larger size of the head of the male child.

The records of the Dublin hospital showed, that there died during the process of parturition, "and probably as a consequence of the injuries to which they were subjected," 151 male children for every 100 female. There was thus an excess of 50 male deaths amongst every 250 children, or 20 in every 100, referable, according to Dr. Simpson, to the greater size of the head of the male infant. "Further," he adds, "we may take it for granted, that, on a low computation, 1 in every 50 children born dies during labour, about 1 in every 25 cases being a still birth. To be certain, however, not to overstep our limits, let us reckon only 1 in every 75 children to die during parturition, and 1 in every 5, or 20 per cent. of those that thus perish, to be formed by that excess of mortality of males over females, which we can trace to no other cause than the influence of the greater dimensions of the male head. In England and Wales about 500,000 births take place annually. By the above computation, more than 6500 of the offspring of these births die during labour, and one-fifth of that number are lost in consequence of the sex and size of the male child. In Great Britain, therefore, the lives of 15,000 infants are annually lost in childbirth, from the operation of this agency."

Applying a similar mode of reasoning to account for the excess of male infants, who die within the first year after birth, Dr. Simpson concludes, that there die annually in Great Britain upwards of 5000 children within the first year after birth, whose death is referable to the influence of the sex and greater size of the male head during labour.

e. *Superfœtation*.—It has been an oft-agitated question, whether, after an ovule has been impregnated and passed down into the cavity of the uterus, another ovule may not be fecundated; so that the products of two conceptions may undergo their respective developments in the uterus, and be delivered at an interval corresponding to that between the conceptions. Many physiologists have believed this to be possible, and have given it the name of *superfœtation* or *superfecundation*. The case, cited from Sir Everard Home, of a young female, who died on the seventh or eighth day after conception, exhibits that the mouth of the womb is at an early period completely obstructed by a plug of mucus; and that the inner surface of the uterus is lined by an efflorescence of coagulable lymph, the nature of which will be described under the next head. When such a change has been effected, it would seem to be impossible for the male sperm to reach the ovary; and accordingly, the general belief is, that superfœtation is only practicable prior to these changes, and where there is a second vesicle ripe for impregnation. Of this kind of superfœtation it is probable, that twin and triplet cases are often, if not always, examples; one ovule being impregnated at one copulation, and another at the next.\* This seems to be common in animals. The dog-breeders have often remarked, that a bitch, after having been lined, will readily admit a dog of a very different kind to copulate

\* Art. Zwillinge, in Fierer's Anat. Physiol. Real. Wörterb. Band viii., Altenb. 1829.

with her; and where this has occurred, two different descriptions of puppies have been brought forth,—some resembling each of the fathers. Sir Everard Home<sup>a</sup> states, that a setter bitch was lined in the morning by a pointer. The bitch went out with the game-keeper, who had with him a Russian setter of his own, which also lined her in the course of the afternoon. She had a litter of six puppies; two only of which were preserved. One of these bore an exact resemblance to the pointer, the other to the Russian setter,—the male influence being predominant in each.

Of this kind of superfœtation or double conception we have several instances on record, of which the following are amongst the most striking, the male parents of the respective fœtuses having differed in colour. The first is the well-known case, cited by Buffon,<sup>b</sup> of a female at Charleston, South Carolina, who was delivered in 1714 of twins, within a very short time of each other. One of these was black, the other white. This circumstance led to an inquiry, when the woman confessed, that on a particular day, immediately after her husband had left his bed, a negro entered her room, and compelled her to gratify his wishes, under threats of murdering her. Several cases of women in the West India Islands having had, at one birth, a black and a white child, are recorded; and Dr. Moseley<sup>c</sup> gives the following case, which is very analogous to that described by Buffon. A negro woman brought forth two children at a birth, both of a size, one of which was a negro, the other a mulatto. On being interrogated, she said, that a white man, belonging to the estate, came to her hut one morning before she was up, and that she received his embraces soon after her black husband had quitted her. Sir Everard Home<sup>d</sup> likewise asserts, that a particular friend of his “knows a black woman, who has two children now alive, that are twins and were suckled together; one quite black, the other a mulatto. The woman herself does not hesitate in stating the circumstances: one morning just after her husband had left her, a soldier, for whom she had a partiality, came into her hut, and was connected with her, about three or four hours after leaving the embraces of her husband.” One of the author’s pupils, Dr. N. J. Huston, then of Harrisonburg, Virginia, also communicated to him the case of a female who was delivered, in March, 1827, of a negro child and a mulatto on the same night. Where negro slavery exists, such cases are sufficiently numerous.\* So far, therefore, as regards the possibility of a second vesicle being fecundated, prior to the closure of the os uteri by the tenacious mucus and the flocculent membranous secretion from the interior of the uterus, or by the decidua, no doubt, we think, can be entertained; but, except in cases of double uterus, it would seem to be impracticable afterwards; although cases have been adduced to show its possibility. Still, these may perhaps be explained under the supposition, that the uterine changes, above referred to, may not be as rapidly accomplished in some cases as in others; and, again, the period

<sup>a</sup> Lect. on Comp. Anat. iii. 302.

<sup>c</sup> A Treatise on Tropical Diseases, p. 111.

<sup>d</sup> See, for an enumeration of cases, Beck’s Medical Jurisprudence, 6th edit. i. 322; and Dr. Allen Thomson, in Cyclop. Anat. and Physiol., part. xiii. p. 463, for Feb. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Hist. Nat. de l’Homme, Pœberté.

<sup>d</sup> Op. cit.



of gestation is not so rigidly fixed, but that children, begotten at the same time, or within a few days, may still be born at a distance of some weeks from each other. A case happened to the author in which nearly three weeks elapsed between the birth of twins, in whose cases the ova were probably fecundated either at the same copulation or within a few hours of each other.

It may happen, too, that although two ova may be fecundated, both embryos may not undergo equal developement.<sup>a</sup> One, indeed, may be arrested at an early stage, although still retaining the vital principle. In such a case, the other will generally be found larger than common. A case of this kind occurred in the practice of Professor Hall, of the University of Maryland. On the 4th of October, 1835, a lady was delivered of a female foetus, 2 inches and 10 lines in length. This occurred about half-past eight in the morning; and at two o'clock on the following morning, she was delivered of a second child, which weighed 9½ pounds. The foetus, whose developement was arrested, was seen by the author. When first extruded, it gave no evidences of decay, and in colour and general characters resembled the foetus of an ordinary abortion.<sup>b</sup>

Still, there are many cases on record, in which the interval between the births of the children has been from 110 to 170 days, whilst neither of the children was premature in appearance; so that the possibility of a second conception, when the uterus already contains an ovum of several months, it has been conceived, can scarcely be denied, however improbable it may seem;<sup>c</sup> and, indeed, if the facts be admitted, the deduction seems to be irresistible.

f. *Pregnancy*.—When the fecundated ovum has been laid hold of by the fimbriated extremity of the Fallopian tube, and through this channel,—perhaps by the contraction of the tubes and the ciliary motions of its lining membrane,<sup>d</sup>—has reached the cavity of the uterus, it forms a union with this viscus, to obtain the nutritive fluids that may be required for its developement, and to remain there during the whole period of *pregnancy* or *utero-gestation*;—a condition which will now require some consideration.

Immediately after a fecundating copulation, and whilst the chief changes are transpiring in the ovary, certain modifications occur in the uterus. According to some, it dilates for the reception of the ovum. Bertrandi found this to be the case in extra-uterine pregnancy, and in females whom he opened at periods so near to conception that the ovum was still floating in the uterus. Its substance appeared at the same time redder, softer, less compact, and more vascular than usual. In the case from Sir Everard Home,<sup>e</sup> to which we have more than once alluded, the lining of the uterus was

<sup>a</sup> Wagner, *Elements of Physiology*, by Willis, p. 79, Lond. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> For similar cases, of which many are on record, see Dr. Samuel Jackson, formerly of Northumberland, Pa., now of Philadelphia, in *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, May, 1838, p. 237, and May, 1839, p. 256; also, Dr. J. G. Porter, *ibid.*, Aug. 1840, p. 307; Mr. Streeter, *Lond. Lancet*, Oct. 30, 1841; and Dr. H. N. Loomis, *Buffalo Medical Journal*, June, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Carpenter, *Principles of Human Physiology*, 2d edit., p. 708, Lond. 1844.

<sup>d</sup> Wagner, *op. citat.*, p. 137.

<sup>e</sup> *Lect. on Comp. Anat.*, iii. 209, Lond. 1823.

covered by a beautiful flocculent appearance, about the seventh or eighth day after impregnation. The soft flocculent membrane, which forms in this way, is the *membrana caduca* seu *decidua*, *decidua externa*, first described by Hunter; the *epichorion* of Chaussier; the

Fig. 305.



Decidua Uteri.

The dark shade, over and between the villi, is the decidua. The uterine vessels are seen extending into the decidua and forming loops there.—(Von Baer.)

*tunica exterior ovi*, *t. caduca*, *t. crassa*, *membrana cribrosa*, *membrana ovi materna*, *membrana mucosa*, *decidua cellularis et spongiosa*, of others.

In a case, observed by Von Baer at a very early period, when the decidua was still in a pulpy state, the villi of the lining membrane of the uterus, which in the unimpregnated state are very short, were found to be remarkably elongated; and between the villi, and passing over them, was a substance not organized, but merely effused, and evidently the decidua at an extremely early age.\*

Others have supposed, that the decidua is composed of the inner portion of the mucous membrane itself, which undergoes a considerable change in its character.<sup>b</sup>

The arrangement of this membrane has given rise to some discussion.<sup>c</sup> The opinions of most of the anatomists of the present day are in favour of one of two views. It is maintained by some, that one of the first effects of conception is to cause the secretion of a considerable quantity of a sero-albuminous substance from the inner surface of the uterus; so that the organ becomes filled with it. At first, when the ovum arrives in the uterus, it falls into the midst of this secretion, gradually absorbing a part by its outer surface for its nutrition. The remainder is organized into a double membrane, one corresponding to the uterus, the other adhering to the ovum. This sero-albuminous substance has been assimilated both to the white, with which the eggs of birds become invested in passing through the oviduct, and to the viscid substance that envelopes the membranous ova of certain reptiles. It is conceived by some to plug up both the orifices of the Fallopian tubes, and that of the uterus; and, according to Krummacher<sup>d</sup> and Dutrochet,<sup>e</sup> it has been seen extending into the tubes; whilst the remains of that which plugged up the os uteri has been recognised in the shape of a nipple on the top of the aborted ovum. To this substance Breschet<sup>f</sup> has given the name *Hydropérione*. By others, it is held, that the decidua is slightly organized even prior to the arrival of the ovum, lining the whole of the cavity and being devoid of apertures; so that when the ovum passes along the tube and attains the cornu of the uterus, it pushes the decidua before it; the part so pushed forwards constituting the *tunica decidua reflexa* or *ovuline*,

\* Von Baer, op. citat.; and Wagner's Physiology, by Willis, p. 184, Lond. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> Weber and Sharpey, cited in Müller, Elements of Physiology, by Baly, p. 1574, Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 486 and 515, 1832; Purkinje, art. Ei, Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch., x. 107, Berlin, 1834; W. Hunter's Anatomical Description of the Human Gravid Uterus and its Contents, Lond. 1794; and Carus, Lehre von der Schwangerschaft, u. s. w., Abth. ii. s. 5.

<sup>d</sup> Diss. Sistens Observationes quasd. Anatom. circa Velamenta Ovi humani. Duisb. 1790.

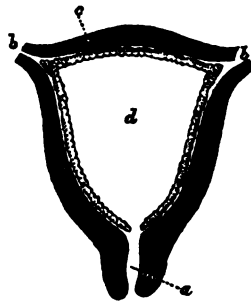
<sup>e</sup> Mém. de la Société Médicale d'Emulation, viii. P. i. 1817.

<sup>f</sup> Etudes Anatomiques, Physiologiques, et Pathologiques, de l'Œuf dans l'Espèce Humaine, &c., Paris, 1832.

and enveloping the whole of the ovum except at the part where the decidua leaves the uterus to be reflected over it. This is the seat of the future *placenta*. Such is the opinion of Velpeau,<sup>a</sup> Wagner,<sup>b</sup> and others. An objection to it, however, is the difficulty of so small a body pushing the decidua before it; and a still stronger is the assertion of Professor Sharpey, that the structure of the decidua and of the decidua reflexa is different.<sup>c</sup> Hence, it has been thought more probable, that the latter is almost entirely a new production, the growth of which is simultaneous with the enlargement of the ovum, and that the decidua vera has no more share in its formation, than as supplying, through its vessels, the necessary materials.<sup>d</sup>

At the point of reflection of the decidua reflexa, there is a thick stratum of a substance precisely similar to the decidua reflexa, which attaches the ovum to the side of the uterus, and which blends intimately on the outer side of the reflex fold with the decidua vera. This thick stratum is termed the *decidua serotina*, from its appearing to have been formed at a later period. It is represented in Fig. 308. The view of Dr. Burns<sup>e</sup> differs from this in supposing that the decidua consists of two layers, the innermost of which has no aperture, so that the ovum on attaining the cornu of the uterus pushes it forwards, and forms the *decidua protrusa* or *decidua reflexa*. Impregnation, Velpeau says, occasions a specific excitation in the uterus, promptly followed by an exhalation of coagulable matter. This concretes, and is soon transformed into a kind of cyst or ampulla, filled with a transparent or slightly rose-coloured fluid. This species of cyst is in contact with the whole surface of the uterine cavity, and some-

Fig. 306.



Section of the Uterus about eight days after Impregnation.

a. Cervix. b, b. Orifices of Fallopian tubes. c. Decidua vera. d. Cavity of uterus.—(Wagner.)

Fig. 307.



Section of the Uterus when the Ovum is entering its Cavity.

Ovum, f, surrounded by its chorion, g. a. Cervix. b, b. Fallopian tubes. c. Decidua vera. d. Cavity of the uterus. e. Decidua reflexa.—(Wagner.)

<sup>a</sup> *Traité Élémentaire de l'Art des Accouchemens*, i. 231, Paris, 1829, or Prof. Meigs's translation, 2d edit., p. 246, Philad. 1838; also, Velpeau, *Embryologie ou Ovologie Humaine*, Paris, 1833; or a copious Analysis of the same, by the author, in *Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences*, Aug. 1834, p. 389.

<sup>c</sup> Müller, *op. cit.*

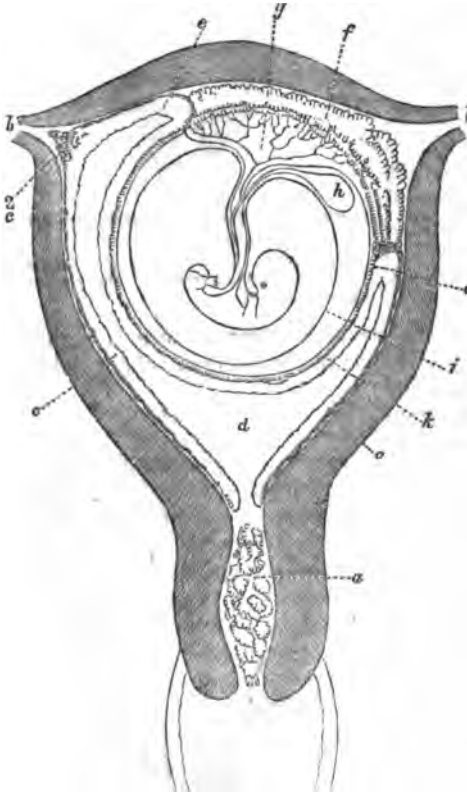
<sup>b</sup> *Op. citat.*, p. 188.

<sup>d</sup> Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 748, Lond. 1842.

<sup>e</sup> *Principles of Midwifery*, 3d edit., p. 147, Lond. 1814.

times extends into the commencement of the tubes, and most frequently into the upper part of the cervix uteri, in the form of solid concrete cords; but is never, he says, perforated naturally, as Hunter, Bojanus, Lee, and others have maintained. The decidua uteri, according to Velpeau, retains a pretty considerable thickness, especially around the placenta, until the end of gestation: the decidua reflexa,

Fig. 308.



Section of the Uterus with the Ovum somewhat advanced.

a. Muco-gelatinous substance, blocking up os uteri. b, b. Fallopian tube. c, c. Decidua vera prolonged, at c 2, into Fallopian tube. d. Cavity of uterus, almost completely occupied by ovum (compare with Fig. 307). e, e. Angles at which decidua vera is reflected. f. Decidua serotina. g. Allantois. h. Umbilical vesicle. i. Amnion. k. Chorion, lined with outer fold of serous tunic.—(Wagner.)

Seiler, *membrana uteri interna evoluta*, and Burdach, *nidamentum*.<sup>b</sup>

A difficulty exists in understanding how the decidua is formed continuously over the orifice of the Fallopian tubes, and over the upper

on the contrary, becomes insensibly thinner and thinner, so that at the full period it is at times of extreme tenuity. Towards the third or fourth month—a little sooner or later—they touch and press upon each other, and remain in a more or less perfect state of contiguity, until the expulsion of the secundines; but Velpeau asserts they are never confounded; and such appears to be the view of Bischoff.<sup>a</sup> The decidua—the true as well as the reflected—is esteemed by Velpeau a simple concretion—a layer without regular texture—the product of an excretion from the lining membrane of the uterus; on this account, he terms it, ‘*anhistous membrane*,’ (from *an*, privative, and *histos*, “a web”) or ‘*membrane without texture*.’ There has, indeed, been a striking dissatisfaction with the name “decidua.” Besides the appellatives already given, Dutrochet has proposed to call it *épione*, Breschet, *périone*,

<sup>a</sup> Wagner, op. citat., p. 190 (note).

<sup>b</sup> Burdach, *Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, B. ii.; Bojanus, *Isis*, 1821, H. iii.; and Dr. Robt. Lee's *Remarks on the Pathology and Treatment of some of the most important Diseases of Women*, London, 1833.

surface of the cervix uteri. A new production must evidently take place there. By some, however, it is not presumed to exist in the latter situation; but a plug of gelatinous matter is found there, as in Fig. 308, *a*.

The use of the decidua is, in Velpeau's opinion, to retain the fecundated ovum to a given point of the uterine cavity; and if his views of its arrangement were correct, the suggestion would be good. In favour of this arrangement, a good deal might be said. If there were apertures in the decidua corresponding to the Fallopian tubes, it would seem, that the ovum ought more frequently to fall into the sero-albuminous matter about the cervix uteri, and attachment of the placenta over the os uteri ought, perhaps, to occur more frequently than it is known to do. When placenta prævia does exist, it is owing, in the opinion of Dr. Doherty,\* to the decidua being imperfect, or to the ovum descending into its cavity before that membrane has acquired sufficient consistence and tenacity to resist its weight: the consequence is, that the ovum must make its way to the cervix uteri and give occasion to implantation of the placenta there. Under M. Velpeau's doctrine, the attachment of the placenta ought generally to be near the cornu of the uterus, which is, in fact, the case. Of 34 females, who died in a state of pregnancy at the *Hôpital de Perfectionnement*, an examination of the parts exhibited, that, in twenty, the centre of the placenta corresponded to the orifice of the Fallopian tube; in three, it was anterior to it; in two, posterior; in three, beneath; and in six, near the fundus of the uterus. It is not so easy to subscribe to his assertions regarding the "anorganic" nature of the decidua. Many excellent observers have affirmed, not only that this membrane exists between the placenta and the uterus, which M. Velpeau's view, of course, renders impossible, but that numerous vessels pass between it, the uterus, and the placenta. We know, too, that the safest and most effectual mode of inducing premature labour is to detach the decidua from the cervix uteri, or, in other words, to break up the vessels that form the medium of communication between it and the lining membrane of the uterus. It may be said, indeed, that the mere separation of the "anorganic pellicle"—as M. Velpeau designates it—is a source of irritation, and may excite the uterus to the expulsion of its contents, and this is possible; but he affirms, that no tissue attaches the decidua to the uterus; and that it adheres to the inner surface of the organ merely in the manner of an excreted membraniform shell (*plaque*). The views of Lepelletier† and Raspail‡ coincide with those of Velpeau as to the decidua being an excretion; but those of Raspail are modified by his peculiar opinions. He maintains, that the surfaces of an organ—whether external or internal—having once fulfilled their appropriate functions, become detached and give place to the layer beneath them; and we have before remarked, that he considers the secretions of the mucous and serous membranes to be constituted of the *detritus* of those membranes.

\* The Dublin Journal of Medical Science, July, 1845, p. 333.

† Physiologie Médicale et Philosophique, iv. 339. Paris, 1833.

‡ Chimie Organique, p. 370. Paris, 1833.

Now, that which happens to the intestinal canal and the bladder most likewise happen, he affirms, to the uterus, and as, at the period of gestation, it surpasses in developement, elaboration, and vitality, every other living organ, it ought necessarily to cast off its layers, in proportion as they have executed the work of elaboration. These *deciduous* layers constitute the *decidua*, on which, he says, traces of a former adhesion to the parietes of the uterus, and of the three apertures into the organ, may be met with.

But the very existence of a *decidua reflexa* has been denied. It is so by Jörg,<sup>a</sup> Samuel,<sup>b</sup> and by Dr. Granville, who affirms, that it is now scarcely admitted by one in ten of the anatomists of the European continent.<sup>c</sup> He refers to a specimen of an impregnated uterus in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, which exhibits distinctly a round ovum, suspended naturally within the *decidua*, as a globe may be supposed to hang from some point of the interior of an oblong sac; and to two specimens, in the collection of Sir Charles Clarke, exhibiting an ovulum, which has already penetrated about an inch into the cavity of the uterine *decidua*; but neither in these, nor in the specimen at the Royal College, is any part of the uterine *decidua* pushed forward. The ovum appears to have its natural covering; and, in the College specimen, there is a large space between them and the deciduous lining of the uterus. Dr. Granville regards the *decidua reflexa* to be the external membrane of the ovum, to which Professor Boër, of Königsberg, gave the name "cortical membrane," and which Dr. Granville terms *cortex ovi*.<sup>d</sup> It has received various names. By Albinus, it was termed *involucrum membranaceum*; by Hoboken, *membrana retiformis chorii*; by Roederer, *membrana filamentosa*; by Blumenbach, *membrana adventitia*; and by Oslander, *membrana crassa*.<sup>e</sup> To this membrane—and to the *decidua uteri*, as connected with the placenta—we shall have to refer hereafter.

The *decidua* manifestly does not belong to the ovum; for it not only exists prior to the descent of the ovum into the uterus, but is even formed, according to Breschet,<sup>f</sup> in all cases of extra-uterine pregnancy. (See Fig. 300.) Chaussier saw it in several cases of tubal gestation. It existed in a case of abdominal pregnancy, cited by Lallemant, and, according to Adelon,<sup>g</sup> Evrat affirms, that one is secreted after every time of sexual intercourse,—which is apocryphal. Dr. Robert Lee<sup>h</sup> has shown, that the *decidua* is not formed within the uterus in all cases of extra-uterine gestation; and in ten cases detailed by him, and in one other cited from Chaussier, the *decidua* was seen distinctly surrounding the ovum in the Fallopian tube.

<sup>a</sup> Das Gebärorgan des Menschen, u. s. w. Leipz. 1808.

<sup>b</sup> De Ovarum Mammal. Velament. Wirceb. 1816; and art. Ei, in Encyclop. Wörterb. der Med. Wissensch. x. 107. Berlin, 1834.

<sup>c</sup> See, also, Dewees, Compendious System of Midwifery.

<sup>d</sup> Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, &c., p. v. Lond. 1834.

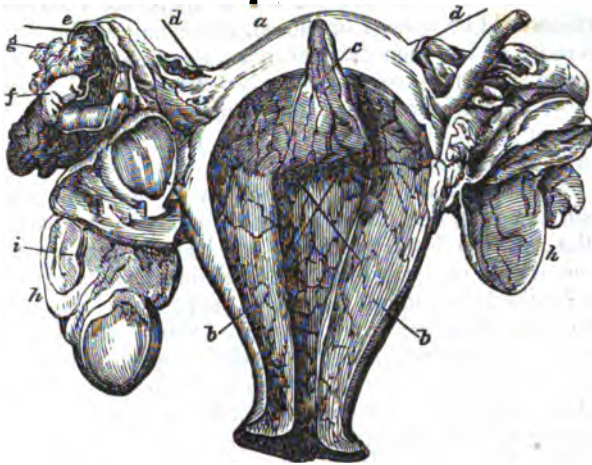
<sup>e</sup> Burdach, Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, ii. 75, who refers to various views on the subject of the *decidua reflexa*. See, also, Velpeau, in op. cit.; and Purkinje, art. Ei, in Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch. x. 107. Berlin, 1834.

<sup>f</sup> Repert. Général d'Anatomie, p. 165, pour 1828.

<sup>g</sup> Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de édit. iv. 110, Paris, 1829.

<sup>h</sup> Lond. Med. Gazette, June 5, 1840.

Fig. 309.

*Extra-Uterine Pregnancy.*

*a.* Uterus, its cavities laid open. *b.* Its parietes thickened, as in natural pregnancy. *c.* A portion of decidua separated from its inner surface. *d.* Bristles to show the direction of the Fallopian tubes. *e.* Right Fallopian tube distended into a sac which has burst, containing the extra-uterine ovum. *f.* Fœtus. *g.* Chorion. *h.* Ovaries; in the right one is a well-marked corpus luteum, *i.*

The views of Mr. Goodsir<sup>a</sup> on the decidua merit great attention. By the observations of Weber and Sharpey, it had been shown, that when impregnation has taken place, the mucous membrane of the uterus swells and becomes lax, its follicles increase in size and secrete a granular matter, and its capillaries enlarge proportionately. Mr. Goodsir has remarked, however, that the interfollicular spaces, in which the network of capillaries lies, are occupied by a texture consisting entirely of nucleated particles; "this is a tissue represented by Baer and Wagner, and described by them as surrounding what they supposed to be uterine papillæ (really the enlarged follicles) and considered by them as decidua." The increased thickness of the mucous membrane appears as much due to the development of this interfollicular substance, as to the enlargement of the follicles. About the time at which the ovum reaches the uterus, the developed mucous membrane or decidua begins to secrete; the os uteri becomes plugged up by this secretion, where it assumes the form of elongated epithelial cells; the cavity of the uterus becomes filled with a fluid secretion, the *hydropérione* of Breschet; and in the immediate neighbourhood of the ovum, the secretion consists of cells of a spherical form. The decidua, then, according to him, consists of two distinct elements;—the mucous membrane of the uterus thickened by a peculiar development, and a non-vascular cellular substance, the product of the uterine follicles; the former constitutes, at a later period, the greater part of the decidua vera; the latter the decidua reflexa. This view of the constitution of the decidua—in Mr. Goodsir's opinion—clears up the

<sup>a</sup> Anatomical and Pathological Observations, Edinb., 1845.

doubts, which were entertained regarding the arrangement of these membranes at the os uteri and the entrances of the Fallopian tubes. These orifices will be opened or closed, according as the cellular secretion is more or less plentiful, "or in a state of more or less vigorous development." It removes also—he conceives—the difficulty of explaining how the decidua covers the ovum—a difficulty, which cannot be reconciled with the views of Dr. Sharpey, who supposes a deposition of lymph, which is the old view of the constitution of the decidua. When the ovum enters the cavity of the uterus, the cellular decidua surrounds it, and becomes the decidua reflexa by a continuance of the same action by which it had been increasing in quantity prior to the arrival of the ovum. The cellular decidua grows around the ovum, by the formation of new cells, the product of those in whose vicinity the ovum happens to be situate. At this stage of its growth, the ovum with its external membrane, the chorion, which is covered by the tufts whose structure and functions are described elsewhere, is embedded in a substance that consists wholly of active nucleated cells. The absorbing cells of the tufts are constantly taking up either the matter resulting from the solution of the cells of the cellular decidua, or the fluid contained in those cells,—in either case from matter supplied by the vessels of the uterus, but selected and prepared by the cells of its lining membrane, now become the decidua.\*

Mr. Goodsir's view harmonizes more than any other with the mode in which new structures would seem to be formed elsewhere, but farther observations are needed before this interesting and intricate topic of histology can be esteemed settled.

When the ovum attains the interior of the uterus, which it probably does within the first ten days after conception, it forms, in a short space of time, a connexion with the uterus by means of the placenta, in the mode to be mentioned hereafter. During the development of the embryo, it is requisite that the uterus should be correspondently enlarged, in order to afford room for it, as well as to supply it with its proper nutriment. These changes in the uterine system will engage us exclusively at present. In the first two months, the augmentation in size is not great, and chiefly occurs in the pelvis; but, in the fourth, the increase is more rapid. The uterus is too large to be contained in the pelvis, and consequently rises into the hypogastrium. During the next four months, it increases, in every direction, occupying a larger and larger space in the cavity of the abdomen, and crowding the viscera into the flanks and the iliac regions. At the termination of the eighth month, it almost fills the hypogastric and umbilical regions; and its fundus approaches the epigastric region. After this, the fundus is depressed and approaches the umbilicus, leaving a flatness above, which has given rise to the old French proverb:—*En ventre plat enfant y a*. During the first five months of utero-gestation, the womb experiences but little change, maintaining a conoidal shape. After this, however, the neck diminishes in length, and is ultimately almost entirely effaced. The organ has now a decidedly ovoid shape, and its bulk is, according to Haller and Levret,

\* British and Foreign Med. Rev., Oct. 1845, p. 303.



eleven and a half times greater than in the unimpregnated state. Its length, at the full period, has been estimated at about a foot; its transverse diameter at nine inches: its circumference on a level with the Fallopian tubes, at twenty-six inches; and, at the uterine portion of the cervix uteri, thirteen inches. Its weight, which, prior to impregnation, was from fourteen to eighteen drachms, is, at this time, from a pound and a half to two pounds.

Whilst the uterus is undergoing expansion, the size and situation of the parts attached to it also experience modification. The broad ligaments are unfolded; the ovaries and Fallopian tubes are raised a little, but are subsequently applied against the sides of the uterus. The vagina is elongated. The round ligaments yield to the elevation of the organ as far as their length will permit; but, ultimately, they draw the uterus forward, so that the great vessels of the abdomen are not injuriously compressed. The parietes of the abdomen are so much distended that the cuticle yields; hence, an appearance of cicatrices always exists on the abdomen of one who has borne children; and occasionally, the fasciculi of the abdominal muscles separate so as to give rise to ventral hernia.

The changes, produced in the uterus, are not limited to simple dilatation of its tissue. Its condition has experienced various alterations, dependent upon the new mode of nutrition it has assumed. The whole organ has undergone, not only extension, but inspissation of its parietes. In its unimpregnated condition, it is about four lines thick; in the third month of utero-gestation, five. Its arteries enlarge as well as its veins, which latter form large dilatations at the inner surface. These have been called *uterine sinuses*. Its nerves are

Fig. 310.

*Arteries of the Impregnated Uterus.*

greatly increased in size, as well as its lymphatics; and its proper tissue, from being hard, whitish, and incontractile, has become red, soft, spongy, and capable of energetic contraction. A difference of sentiment has existed with regard to the nature of the new tissue of

the uterus; some comparing it to the middle coat of arteries; others describing it as partly cellular and partly muscular; but an immense majority esteeming it to be muscular. The respectable name of Blumenbach<sup>a</sup> is in the minority. The facts in favour of its muscularity appear to us overwhelming. It is clearly muscular in the mammiferous animal. Thus, in the rabbit, the muscularity of the uterus, according to Blundell,<sup>b</sup> is far more conspicuous than that of the intestines; the fibres can be seen coarse and large, and their motion can be observed, if they be examined immediately after the rabbit is killed. The same acute physiologist remarks, that, when developed by pregnancy, the muscularity of the organ is so clear, that if you take a portion of it, and show it to any anatomist, asking him what its nature is, he will unhesitatingly reply—it is muscular. This experiment, he says, he once made himself. He took a portion of the impregnated uterus, showed it to Mr. Green and Mr. Key—"excellent judges on this point,"—and, without mentioning the womb, he asked them to tell him what was the structure, when they immediately declared it to be muscular. A similar experiment had previously been made upon Mr. Else, who had made up his mind as to the non-muscularity of the uterus. A small portion was taken to him for his opinion of the precise nature of the tissue submitted to him. It was from the uterus at an advanced period of utero-gestation. After carefully examining it, he gave for answer, that in his opinion it was muscular; but as it was detached from its natural locality, he could not say to what part of the body it belonged. When told, however, that it was a piece of the uterus, he examined it again, and *then* said that it could not be muscle, for there were no muscular fibres in the uterus.<sup>c</sup> The arrangement of the fibres is not clearly understood. Generally, perhaps, they are described as running externally, in a longitudinal direction, from the fundus to the neck: beneath this plane is another with circular fibres; but within this the fibres are interlaced in inextricable confusion. Some anatomists, however, enumerate as many as seven superposed planes. The fibres are of much lighter colour than those of ordinary muscles, are more like those of the bladder and intestines, and are collected in very flat and loose fasciculi.<sup>d</sup> The developement of this structure would not seem to be limited to the pregnant condition. It appears to occur whenever the uterus is increased in size, as has been remarked by Dr. Horner,<sup>e</sup> and by Lobstein.<sup>f</sup> The muscular layers are thickest at the fundus uteri. At the cervix uteri, they are extremely small and indistinct.<sup>g</sup>

After the ovum has attained the interior of the uterus, and entered

<sup>a</sup> Instit. Physiolo. § 547. See, also, Dr. Ramsbotham, *Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal*, xxxix. 456.

<sup>b</sup> *Principles and Practice of Obstetrics*, Amer. edit. p. 67, Washington, 1834.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. D. Davis's *Principles and Practice of Obstetric Medicine*, ii. 850, Lond. 1836.

<sup>d</sup> Désormeaux, art. *Grossesse*, in *Dict. de Méd.* x. 380, Paris, 1824.

<sup>e</sup> *Lessons in Practical Anatomy*, p. 304, Philad. 1836.

<sup>f</sup> *Fragment d'Anatomie Physiologique sur l'Organisation de la Matrice dans l'Espèce Humaine*, Paris, 1803.

<sup>g</sup> See, on the structure of the uterus, M. Jobert de Lamballe, in *Journal de Chirurgie*; cited in *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, Jan. 1845, p. 181.

the flocculent decidua, it becomes connected, in process of time, with the uterus, by means of a body to be described hereafter, called the *placenta*, which is attached to the uterus, and communicates with the fœtus by a vascular cord that enters its umbilicus. The seat of the attachment of the placenta—we have seen—is not always the same. Frequently, it is near one of the cornua of the uterus; but occasionally it is implanted over the os uteri. The diversity of position has given occasion to difference of opinion regarding the causes that influence it. By some, it has been presumed, that, in whatever part of the uterus the ovum lodges, when it quits the Fallopian tube, there an adhesion is formed. By others, it has been said, that as the ovum pushes the decidua at the mouth of the Fallopian tube before it into the uterus, the attachment of the placenta must be near the orifice of the tube. Such—as has been shown—would appear to be the fact in the majority of cases, but we see so many irregularities in this respect, as to preclude us from assigning any very satisfactory reason for it.

g. *Signs of Pregnancy.*—Along with the changes that supervene in the generative apparatus during pregnancy, the whole system commonly sympathizes more or less in the altered condition. Some females, however, pass through the whole course of gestation with but very slight or no disturbance of the ordinary functions; whilst with others it is a period of perpetual suffering. One of the earliest and most common signs is suppression of the catamenial discharge; but, of itself, this cannot be relied on, as it may result from disease. Soon after impregnation, the digestive and cerebral functions exhibit more or less modification. The female is affected with nausea and vomiting, especially in the morning after rising; the appetite is most fastidious; substances, which previously excited loathing being at times desired or *longed* for with the greatest avidity; whilst on the contrary, cherished articles of diet can no longer be regarded without disgust. The sleep is apt to be disturbed; the temper to be unusually irritable, even in those possessed of signal equanimity on other occasions. The mammæ enlarge, and become knotty, and sometimes lancinating pains are felt in them; and a secretion of a whitish serum can often be pressed from the nipple. The areola around the nipple becomes of a darker colour in the first pregnancy than it is in the virgin state; and it is darker during each successive pregnancy, than when the female is not pregnant. There is, also, a puffy turgescence, not alone of the nipple, but of the whole of the surrounding disk, with a developement of the small follicles around the nipple.<sup>b</sup> These appearances constitute one of the best single proofs of the existence of pregnancy; but it is obvious, that for accurate discrimination, it is necessary to be aware of the hue in each particular case in the unfecundated state; and, moreover, instances are on record of a well-marked areola occurring in persons who are not pregnant, as well as of an entire absence of areola in those who are. Dr. Guy

<sup>a</sup> See T. R. Beck, *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, Jan. 1843, p. 112.

<sup>b</sup> Montgomery's *Exposition of the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, &c.*, p. 62, Lond. 1837, or Dunglison's *Amer. Med. Libr. edit.*, Philad. 1839; and Hamilton's *Practical Observations on Midwifery*, *Amer. Med. Libr. edit.* p. 44. Philad. 1837.

remarks, that Dr. J. Reid showed him a case of enlarged mammae, with distinct areolæ and mucous follicles, in a female who had never been, and was not at that time, pregnant.<sup>a</sup> The author has had numerous opportunities for appreciating the insufficiency of these evidences when taken singly.

It has been affirmed by Dr. Kluge, of Berlin, by M. Jacquemin, of Paris, and by Dr. D'Outrepoint,<sup>b</sup> that a bluish tint of the vagina, extending from the os externum to the os uteri, is a sure test of pregnancy. According to Kluge, this discoloration commences in the fourth week of utero-gestation, increases until the time of delivery, and ceases with the lochia. M. Jacquemin, on examining the genitals of prostitutes, in compliance with the police regulations of Paris, observed the same peculiarity of colour in the same situation in those that were pregnant: he describes it as a violet or lees of wine colour, and so distinct as never to deceive him, being sufficient of itself, and independently of the other signs of pregnancy, to determine the existence of that state. Parent-Duchatelet<sup>c</sup> affirms, that he was present when M. Jacquemin's accuracy in this matter was successfully put to the test: in the investigation, he examined no less than 4500 prostitutes. Dr. D'Outrepoint has not only met with this appearance uniformly in the human subject, but in different animals, which he examined in every period of pregnancy, and which he destroyed, to ascertain that no fallacy attended the suspicion of gestation. Dr. Montgomery,<sup>d</sup> however,—from limited observation it is true,—found, that whilst in some cases the bluish colour was very obvious, in others it was so slight as to be scarcely, if at all, perceptible. There is nothing more probable, than that the capillary circulation of the mucous coat of the vagina may be modified along with that of the interior of the uterus during pregnancy, so as to give occasion to the change of colour mentioned by those eminent observers; but it may be doubted whether the test can often be available, especially in private practice.

It is the general opinion, that the blood of pregnancy always presents the buffy coat and other characters of inflammation;<sup>e</sup> and this has even been reckoned as one of the rational signs of pregnancy.<sup>f</sup> Dr. Montgomery<sup>g</sup> ascribes the very general belief in this as an established fact to the circumstance, that pregnant women are seldom bled except when labouring under some form of inflammatory disease; and he affirms, that he has often found the blood of the pregnant female without these characters. Recent hematological researches, however, show that the blood in pregnancy is materially

<sup>a</sup> See Dr. J. Reid, *Lond. Lancet*, Dec. 22, 1838; and Dr. W. A. Guy, *Principles of Forensic Medicine*, p. 72. *Lond.* 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Neues Zeitschrift für Geburtsh.* xiv. 3; cited in *Philad. Medical Examiner*, Feb. 24, 1844, p. 46.

<sup>c</sup> *De la Prostitution dans la Ville de Paris*, i. 217, 218. *Paris*, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> *Op. citat.* p. vi. *Lond.* 1837.

<sup>e</sup> Blackall on Dropsies, p. 279–80, *Lond.* 1814; Scudamore on the Blood, p. 148. *Lond.* 1834.

<sup>f</sup> Gardien, *Traité Complet d'Accouchemens*, &c., 2de édit. i. 472. *Paris*, 1816.

<sup>g</sup> Art. Pregnancy and Delivery, Signs of, in *Cyclop. of Pract. Med.* Amer. edit., by the author, iii. 679. *Philad.* 1845.

altered. Simon<sup>a</sup> found that the blood of a woman in the fifth month had a slight buffy coat, but in other respects did not differ physically from normal blood; and MM. Becquerel and Rodier<sup>b</sup> analyzed the blood of nine pregnant women,—one at the fourth month, five at the fifth month, one at five months and a half, one at six months, and one at seven months. From these they concluded, that although pregnancy, when not far advanced, and when it has not yet exerted any sensible influence on the constitution, may not exhibit any obvious alteration of the blood, it becomes sensibly modified as pregnancy advances; the main modifications being—that the density both of the defibrinated blood and of the serum is diminished; the water, the fibrin, and the phosphorized fat are increased; whilst the corpuscles and the albumen are diminished.

In recent journals<sup>c</sup> it is affirmed, that a German physician, Dr. Pallender, during a practice of eighteen years, has observed a peculiar smell of the vaginal mucus to be a constant and unerring sign of pregnancy. The smell is musty, something resembling that of sperm or of liquor amnii; and after a vaginal examination, he says, it cannot be mistaken for any other odour. In a great many cases of pregnancy, in the first, second, and third months, when the condition of the patient was doubtful, owing to the earliness of the period, he never, in a single instance, failed to discover the true state of the case by means of this sign. According to his latest observations, the odour is perceptible as early as the eighth day of utero-gestation.

Attention has been paid to the condition of the urine during utero-gestation,<sup>d</sup> but although a difference has appeared to exist between it and the urine of an unimpregnated female, it has not generally been esteemed distinctive.<sup>e</sup> M. Donné,<sup>f</sup> indeed, affirms, that during pregnancy it contains less uric acid and phosphate of lime than in the natural state,—a difference explicable on considering the elements that are necessary for the formation of the organs of the fœtus. The crystallization of the salts of the urine is thus so remarkably modified, that by simple inspection, without examining the females, he has in more than thirty cases recognised the state of pregnancy at different periods. Of late years, the urine of the pregnant female has been found to contain a peculiar substance, which separates and forms a pellicle on the surface. To observe this, the fluid must be allowed to stand from two to six days, when minute opaque bodies are observed to rise from the bottom to the surface, where they gradually agglomerate and form a continuous layer over the surface, which is so consistent, that it may be almost lifted off the urine by raising it by one of its edges. To this pellicle the name *kiestein* or

<sup>a</sup> Animal Chemistry, Syd. Soc. edit. p. 335. Lond. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, Nov. 23 and 30; and Dec. 7, 14, and 21, 1844; cited in Simon, loc. cit. and in Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, July, 1845, p. 175.

<sup>c</sup> Northern Journ. of Med., Nov. 1845; cited from Med. Corresp. Rhein und Westfal Aertze, 1845, Bd. iv. H. i; cited, also, in Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, April, 1846, p. 509.

<sup>d</sup> Galen and Savanorola, cited by Fodéré, Méd. Légal. i. 435. Paris, 1837.

<sup>e</sup> Montgomery, op. cit. p. 157; E. Rigby, System of Midwifery, p. 57. Lond. 1841.

<sup>f</sup> Gazette Médicale de Paris, 29 Mai, 1841.

more properly *kiestein*, (from *κείν*, "to be pregnant," and *στέν*, "a pellicle,") has been given. It is whitish, opalescent, slightly granular, and may be compared to the fatty substance which swims on the surface of soups, after they have been allowed to cook. When examined by the microscope, it has the aspect of an amorphous mass, consisting of minute opaque corpuscles, intermingled with crystals of ammoniaco-magnesian phosphate. The kiestein remains on the surface for several days; the urine then becomes turbid, and small opaque masses become detached from the kiestein and fall to the bottom of the fluid; the pellicle then soon becomes destroyed. The author has distinctly noticed in some of the cases the cheesy odour of kiesteinic urine described by Dr. Bird.

Various experiments have been made on this matter by Nauche,<sup>a</sup> Eguisier,<sup>b</sup> Dr. Golding Bird,<sup>c</sup> Mr. Letheby,<sup>d</sup> Dr. Stark,<sup>e</sup> the author's friend Dr. E. K. Kane,<sup>f</sup> of Philadelphia, and, at the author's request, by Drs. McPheeters and Perry,<sup>g</sup> resident physicians at the Philadelphia Hospital, and by M. Kleybolte.<sup>h</sup> They show, that when taken in conjunction with other phenomena, the appearance of the kiestein is certainly a great aid in the diagnosis of pregnancy. Mr. Letheby found unquestionable evidence of kiestein in 48 out of 50 cases between the 2d and 9th month of utero-gestation, and was unable to account for its absence in the two exceptions. The result of Dr. Kane's observations, which the author had an opportunity of examining from time to time, and for the accuracy of which he can vouch, was deduced by Dr. Kane as follows. *First*. Kiestein is not peculiar to pregnancy, but may occur whenever the lacteal elements are secreted without a free discharge from the mammæ. *Secondly*. Although it is sometimes obscurely developed and occasionally simulated by other pellicles, it is generally distinguishable from all others. *Thirdly*. Where pregnancy is possible, the exhibition of a clearly defined kiesteinic pellicle is one of the least equivocal proofs of that condition; and *Fourthly*. When this pellicle is not found in the more advanced stages of supposed pregnancy, the probabilities, if the female be otherwise healthy, are as 20 to 1 (81 to 4) that the prognosis is incorrect.

M. Simon, who has made many observations on the subject, goes farther than Dr. Kane. "From the observations of Kane and myself," he remarks, "it seems to follow that pregnancy may exist without the occurrence of kiestein in the urine. If, however, there is a probability or possibility of pregnancy, and kiestein is found in the urine, then the probability is reduced almost to a certainty."<sup>i</sup>

<sup>a</sup> La Lancette Française, and Lond. Lancet, No. clxvii. p. 675.

<sup>b</sup> La Lancette Française, Février 21, 1839. See, also, L'Experience, Juillet 25, 1839.

<sup>c</sup> Guy's Hospital Reports, April, 1840.

<sup>d</sup> London Medical Gazette, Dec. 24, 1841.

<sup>e</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, Jan. 1842.

<sup>f</sup> American Journal of the Med. Sciences, p. 37, July, 1842.

<sup>g</sup> Amer. Med. Intel. March 15, 1841, p. 369.

<sup>h</sup> Casper's Wochenschrift, Jan. 11, 18, 1845, cited by Dr. Charles West, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1845, p. 525.

<sup>i</sup> See, for the latest researches on this subject, Simon, op. cit., and Ranking's Abstract, pt. 2, vol. i. p. 293, New York, 1846.

By ether, Dr. Lehmann<sup>a</sup> always succeeded in extracting from kiestein no inconsiderable quantity of a semi-solid fat, which when saponified by potassa, and decomposed by sulphuric acid, emitted a most decided odour of butyric acid. The residue of the film, insoluble in ether, showed by experiments that it was a protein compound, differing in properties from albumen. Dr. Lehmann concludes from his experiments, that kiestein is no new peculiar substance; and is nothing more than a mixture of butyraceous fat, phosphate of magnesia, and a protein compound resembling casein.

Along with the above signs, the uterus gradually enlarges; and, about the end of the fourth calendar month or the eighteenth week, sooner or later, *quickening*, as it is usually but erroneously termed, takes place, or the motion of the child is first felt. Prior to this,—from the moment, indeed, of a fecundating copulation,—the female is *quick* with child, but it is not until this period that the foetus has undergone the development necessary for its movements to be perceptible. This occurrence establishes the fact of gestation, whatever doubts may have previously existed. Where there is much corpulence, or where the fluid, surrounding the foetus is in such quantity as to throw obscurity around the case, it may be necessary, for the purpose of verifying the existence of pregnancy, to institute an examination *per vaginam*. This can rarely afford much evidence, prior to the period of quickening; but, after this, the examination, by what the French term the *mouvement de ballotement*, may indicate the presence or the

Fig. 311.



Cervix Uteri at three months.

Fig. 312.



Cervix Uteri at six months.

Fig. 313.



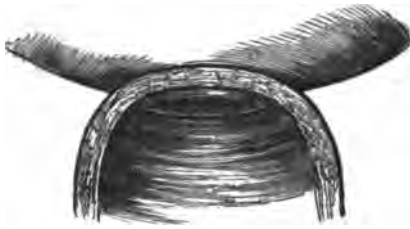
Cervix Uteri at eight months.

contrary of a foetus in the womb. This mode of examination consists in passing the forefinger of one hand into the vagina,—the female being in the erect attitude,—and in giving the foetus a sudden succussion by means of the other hand placed upon the abdomen. In this way, a sensation is communicated to the finger in the vagina, which is often of an unequivocal character. During the latter months, the cervix uteri exhibits the changes depicted in the accompanying figures.

<sup>a</sup> Lehrbuch der Physiologischen Chemie, 1ste Band., Leipz. 1842, cited in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1844, p. 439. Such, also, is the opinion of Simon, Animal Chemistry, Sydenham Soc. edit., vol. ii. London, 1846.

Of late years\* the application of the stethoscope has been used as a means of discrimination in doubtful cases. By applying this instrument to the abdomen of a pregnant female, after the fifth month, the

Fig. 314.



Cervix Uteri at nine months.

pulsations of the heart of the fœtus are audible. This instrument may also exhibit when the pregnancy is multiple, by indicating the pulsations of two or more distinct hearts, according as the gestation is double, triple, &c. It would appear, however, that auscultation affords but two main signs of pregnancy,—the pulsations of the fœtal heart, and a murmur, which,

according to some, should, correctly speaking, be designated the “uterine *souffle* or murmur.” This murmur has been supposed to take place in the uterine artery, which serves for the nutrition of the placenta, and even to indicate the situation of the placenta:† others have considered, that it is not connected with the placenta, but depends upon the increased vascularity and peculiar arrangement of the uterine vessels during the gravid state;‡ but it has been questioned whether it be ever produced except by pressure on the vessels of the mother. It is, indeed, positively stated, that the sound has been heard in cases of uterine and other tumours where there was no pregnancy.§ In one case of fibrous tumour of the uterus, the author heard it distinctly.

In addition to the placental or uterine murmur and the sounds of the fœtal heart, a third sound is occasionally to be heard, and one which is considered to be seated in the umbilical cord. This has been termed the “funic bellows’ sound.” It is of the bellows species, is synchronous with the first sound of the fœtal heart, and appears to depend upon diminution of the caliber of the umbilical arteries, either through pressure, or stretching of the funis, or both combined.\* It is affirmed, too, by Prof. Nägele, that the movements of the fœtus may be distinguished by the stethoscope at a very early period of pregnancy.

The pulsations of the fœtal heart vary, according to a number of

\* Dr. E. Kennedy's *Observations on Obstetric Auscultation*, &c., Dublin, 1833; De Kergaradec, *Mémoire sur l'Auscultation Appliquée à l'Étude de la Grossesse*, &c., Paris, 1822; Dr. J. C. Ferguson, in *Hays's Select Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, p. 172, Philad. 1831; Montgomery, *op. cit.* p. 120, London, 1837; and Nägele, *Die geburtsärztliche Auscultation*, Mainz, 1838; noticed in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Oct. 1839, p. 348.

† Dr. Doherty, *Dublin Journal of Med. Science*, March, 1840.

‡ E. Rigby, *System of Midwifery*, Amer. edit., p. 90, Philad. 1841.

§ Raciborski, *Manuel of Auscultation*, translated by Fitzherbert, p. 145, London, 1836; E. Rigby, *System of Midwifery*, p. 54, London, 1841; Dr. Hope, *Treatise on Diseases of the Heart*, Amer. edit. by Dr. Pennock, Philad. 1842; and Prof. Huston, in *Churchill's System of Midwifery*, Amer. edit., p. 136 (note).

\* Dietrich, *Medizinische Zeitung*, No. xxxvii. 1839; cited in *British and Foreign Medical Review*, July, 1840, p. 274; and E. Kennedy, *op. cit.* p. 121.



observers, from 120 to 180 in the minute. Nägele,<sup>a</sup> however, affirms, that he has occasionally found them, momentarily however, sink as low as 50 or 60. Professor Hamilton<sup>b</sup> refers to various cases, in which Drs. Sidey and Moir attended particularly to the action of the foetal heart, previous to breathing, in all of which it was 60 or less in a minute, before the establishment of respiration. Professor Hamilton affirms, that almost half a century has elapsed since he remarked, that in infants who did not breathe upon birth, but in whom the pulsation of the cord continued, the action of the heart did not exceed 60 pulsations in the minute till breathing took place, when it became so frequent that it could not be numbered. This led him to take every opportunity—when he had occasion to introduce his hand into the uterus to extract the infant—to endeavour to ascertain the action of the foetal heart before birth, and he in no instance discovered it to be more frequent than in the still-born infant whose cord beats. Yet neither Dr. Hamilton, nor any one of the gentlemen referred to, denies that pulsations are heard by the stethoscope, varying from 120 to considerably upwards in the minute, which have been referred to the foetal heart. The truth would seem to be, that in the cases examined by Professor Hamilton, owing to the influence of the parturient efforts on the function of innervation, and through it on the circulation of the foetus, the pulsations of the foetal heart were unusually depressed; but in every case, he would, doubtless, have found them isochronous with those of the umbilical cord, had he made the experiment. It is obvious, indeed, that they must be so, seeing that the umbilical arteries are but a part of the circulatory apparatus of the foetus. In a case observed, at the author's request, by Dr. Vedder, then resident physician at the Philadelphia Hospital, it was noticed, that whilst the uterus was quiescent, the pulsations of the foetal heart numbered 140 per minute; but that immediately succeeding a pain they were only 96, and then gradually rose to 140. After delivery, the cord and foetal heart beat respectively 134 in the minute.<sup>c</sup> Von Hoefft,<sup>d</sup> of St. Petersburg, has seen the influence of uterine contraction on the circulation of the foetus exhibited in the most marked manner. During slight pains, the pulsations of the foetal heart continue, but during more violent contractions, especially after the discharge of the waters, they are wholly interrupted, so that the foetus may be presumed to be in a state of temporary asphyxia in the last periods of labour, and great danger may threaten it if the pains continue for a long time without interruption. The observations of Professor Hamilton ought, therefore, to have no weight with the observer. They were imperfect, inasmuch as the pulsations of the foetal heart were not attended to, whilst he numbered the beats of the cord; and, consequently, they in no respect conflict with the observations of other obstetrical physiologists, which show, that the sounds usually heard during pregnancy,

<sup>a</sup> Dublin Journal of Medical Science, Jan. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Practical Observations on Various Subjects relating to Midwifery, American Medical Library edition, part i. pp. 51, 97, and part ii. p. 123. Philad. 1837-8.

<sup>c</sup> Dunglison's American Medical Intelligencer, Jan. 15, 1839, p. 311.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. April 15, 1839, p. 31; also, Neue Zeitschrift für Geburtskunde, B. vi. s. 1.

and referred to the fœtal heart, are actually owing to the pulsations of that organ.

A case of triplets has been published in which the pulsations of three distinct fœtal hearts were clearly detected.<sup>a</sup>

Lastly, many uneasy feelings, attendant upon gestation, are owing to the increased size of the uterus. These occur more particularly during the latter half of pregnancy. The parietes of the abdomen may not yield with the requisite facility, so that pain may be experienced, especially at the part where the soft parietes join the false ribs. The pressure of the uterus upon the vessels and nerves of the lower extremities occasions enlargement of the veins of the legs; transudation of the serous part of the blood into the cellular tissue, so as to cause considerable swelling of the feet and ankles; numbness or pricking of the lower limbs, and the most violent cramps, especially when the female is in the recumbent posture, so that she may be compelled to rise suddenly from bed several times in the course of the night. The same pressure exerted on the bladder and rectum, especially during the latter months, brings on a perpetual desire to evacuate the contents of these reservoirs.<sup>b</sup>

*h. Duration of Pregnancy.*—The duration of human pregnancy has given rise to much discussion amongst medico-legal and obstetrical writers; and opinions still fluctuate largely. In the years 1825-6, a case occurred before the House of Lords, which exhibits this discordance in a striking point of view. It was the Gardner Peerage cause, in which the principal accoucheurs of the British metropolis were examined,—including Sir Charles M. Clarke, Drs. Blegborough, D. Davis, A. B. Granville, Conquest, Merriman, Hopkins, Blundell, and Power. Of seventeen medical gentlemen, who gave evidence, five maintained the opinion, that the period of human utero-gestation is limited to about nine calendar months,—from thirty-nine to forty weeks, or from two hundred and seventy to two hundred and eighty days,—and of course considered it to be an impossibility, that the claimant could have been the product of a three hundred and eleven days gestation. On the other side, of twelve medical gentlemen, all of whom appeared to agree that nine calendar months is the usual term of utero-gestation, most of them maintained the possibility, that pregnancy might be protracted to nine and a half, ten, or even eleven calendar months, and were, of course, in favour of the claimant in the cause.<sup>c</sup>

The difficulty, which arises in fixing upon the precise term, is owing to the impracticability, in ordinary cases, of detecting the time of conception. The sensations of the female are most fallacious guides; and, accordingly, as has been previously remarked, she is usually in the habit of reckoning from ten days after the disappearance of the catamenia; but it is manifest, that impregnation might have taken place on the very day after their cessation, or not until a

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Bell Fletcher, London Lancet, Sept. 11, 1841.

<sup>b</sup> See, on the Signs of Pregnancy, Dr. T. R. Beck, American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Jan. 1843, p. 112.

<sup>c</sup> The Medical Evidence, relative to the Duration of Human Pregnancy, as given before a Committee of the House of Lords, in 1825 and 1826, with notes, by Robert Lyall, M. D., Lond. 1826. See, also, Beck's Med. Jurisprudence, 6th edit. l. 477, Philad. 1838.

day prior to the subsequent period; so that in this way, an error of at least ten days might occur in the estimate; and again, it does not *always* happen, that the menstruation, immediately succeeding, is arrested. The period of quickening, which generally happens about the eighteenth week of utero-gestation, does not afford us more positive evidence, seeing that it is liable to vary; being experienced by some females much earlier, and, by others, somewhat later. We are, however, justified in stating, that the ordinary duration of human pregnancy is ten lunar months or *forty weeks*; but we have no less hesitation in affirming, that it may be protracted, in particular cases, much beyond this. We find in animals, where the date of impregnation can be rigidly fixed, and the usual term can be determined without difficulty, that numerous cases are met with in which the period is protracted,<sup>a</sup> and there is no reason to doubt, that the same thing happens occasionally to the human female. Earl Spencer has communicated the results of his observations on cows for a number of years to the English Agricultural Society.<sup>b</sup> Of 764 cases, 314 calved before the 284th day, and 310 after the 285th; so that the probable period of gestation, he thinks, ought to be considered 284 or 285 days, and not 270, as stated in the book upon Cattle, published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. The extremes in his observations were 220 and 313 days. In the observations of Mr. C. N. Bement, of Albany, cited by Dr. T. R. Beck,<sup>c</sup> the extremes in sixty-two observed cases were 213 and 336. Mr. Bement, however, doubts the accuracy of the first, for in no other instance did the period fall below 260 days.

The observations of Earl Spencer<sup>d</sup> have suggested an interesting question, in regard to man, on which we have no knowledge, but which is worthy of investigation. He has noticed, that cows in calf to a particular bull belonging to him, carried their calves about four days longer than cows in calf to any other bull;—the average period of gestation being in them 290½ days.

In a case detailed by Dr. Dewees,<sup>e</sup> an opportunity occurred for dating with precision the time of fecundation. The case is likewise interesting in another respect, as demonstrating, that fecundation does not necessarily arrest the succeeding catamenial discharge. The husband of a lady, who was obliged to absent himself many months, in consequence of the embarrassment of his affairs, returned one night clandestinely,—his visit being known only to his wife, her mother, and Dr. Dewees himself. The lady was, at the time, within a week of her menstrual period; and, as the catamenia appeared as usual, she was induced to hope, that she had escaped impregnation. Her catamenia did not, however, make their appearance at the next period; the ordinary signs of pregnancy supervened; and in nine months and thirteen days, or in two hundred and ninety-three days from the visit

<sup>a</sup> Tessier, in *Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences*, An 1817, tom. ii. p. 1 Hamilton, *op. cit.* p. 56; and Montgomery, *op. cit.* p. 267.

<sup>b</sup> *Journal of the English Agricultural Society*, part. ii. 1839.

<sup>c</sup> *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, Oct 1845, p. 520.

<sup>d</sup> Dr. Hall, *Lond. Med. Gazette*, May 6, 1842.

<sup>e</sup> *A Compendious System of Midwifery*, 7th edit. Philad. 1835.

of the husband, she was delivered.<sup>a</sup> In his evidence before the House of Peers, in the case before alluded to, Dr. Granville stated his opinion, that the usual term of utero-gestation is as we have given it; but he, at the same time, detailed the case of his own lady, in whom it had been largely protracted. Mrs. Granville passed her menstrual period on the 7th of April, and on the 15th of August following she quickened;—that is, four months and six or seven days afterwards. In the early part of the first week in January, her confinement was expected, and a medical friend desired to hold himself in readiness to attend. Labour pains came on at this time, but soon passed away; and Mrs. G. went on till the 7th of February, when labour took place, and the delivery was speedy. The child was larger and stronger than usual, and was considered by Dr. Granville,—as well as by Dr. A. T. Thomson, Professor of Materia Medica in the University of London,—to be a ten months' child. Now, if, in this case, we calculate, that conception occurred only the day before the interruption of menstruation, three hundred and six days must have elapsed between impregnation and birth; and if we take the middle period between the last menstruation and the interruption, the interval must have been three hundred and sixteen, or three hundred and eighteen days.<sup>b</sup>

It has been recently affirmed by M. Berthold,<sup>c</sup> as the result of his researches, that in a case of healthy utero-gestation, delivery takes place at the time when the tenth menstruation from the time of conception ought to occur; or, in other words, when the ovary is preparing for the tenth menstruation; and hence, according as the periods of menstruation are in any case more or less than the ordinary time of four weeks apart, so will the period of gestation be in the same proportion longer or shorter than usual. We know not, however, the number of observations on which this view rests, and, consequently, how far it is worthy of being received as a proper method of estimation.

The limit, to which the protraction of pregnancy may *possibly* extend, cannot be assigned. It is not probable, however, that it ever varies largely from the ordinary period. The University of Heidelberg allowed the legitimacy of a child, born at the expiration of thirteen months from the date of the last connubial intercourse; and a case was decided by the Supreme Court of Friesland, by which a child was admitted to the succession, although it was not born till three hundred and thirty-three days from the husband's death; or only a few days short of twelve lunar months. These are instances of the *ne plus ultra* of judicial philanthropy, and, perhaps we might say, credulity. Still, although extremely improbable, we cannot say that they are impossible. This much, however, is clear, that real excess over two hundred and eighty days is by no means frequent; and we think, in accordance with the civil code now in force in

<sup>a</sup> See a case of protracted gestation communicated by Dr. James R. Manley to Dr. T. R. Beck, in Amer. Journ. of the Medical Sciences, Jan. 1831, p. 59; and the case of Innes v. Innes, cited by Dr. Beck, in Amer. Journal of the Medical Sciences, July, 1841, p. 235.

<sup>b</sup> For cases of pregnancy from a single coitus, see Dr. W. A. Guy, Principles of Forensic Medicine, part i. p. 167, London, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Comptes Rendus, 27 Mai, 1844, and Archiv. Général de Médecine, Juin, 1844.

France, that the legitimacy of an infant born three hundred days after the dissolution of marriage, may be contested; although we are by no means disposed to affirm, that if the character of the woman be irreproachable, the decision should be on the side of illegitimacy. Professor Hamilton, indeed, says he is "quite certain," that the term allowed by the French code is too limited, and, he is inclined to regard *ten calendar months*, which he believes to be the established usage of the Consistorial Court of Scotland, as a good general rule, liable to exceptions, upon satisfactory evidence that menstruation had been obstructed for a certain period.<sup>a</sup>

Uncertainty exists as to the earliest period at which a child is viable or capable of carrying on an independent existence. The period is generally fixed at near the end of the seventh month, but children have lived for some time, which have been born earlier.<sup>b</sup> Much evidence was brought forward in a recent case in Scotland, to show that it is possible for a child to live some months, which has been born at the conclusion of 24 weeks of utero-gestation. In that case, the Presbytery decided in favour of the legitimacy of an infant born alive within 25 weeks after marriage.<sup>c</sup>

An interesting case has been recently published in this country by Dr. Shipman.<sup>d</sup> A woman, who considered herself to be at the commencement of the sixth month of utero-gestation, was prematurely delivered in consequence of a fall. The appearance of the child also indicated no farther advance. It was barely alive, with little motion, and was too feeble to cry. It had no nails; no hair, and the cranium was imperfectly ossified. At the end of the seventh week it was weighed for the first time, when its weight was found to be one pound ten ounces, which Dr. Shipman thinks was probably the true weight when it was born. When ten months old it weighed ten pounds eight ounces, and was lively, playful, and healthy. It was not measured at the time of birth, and no hopes of its living were entertained.

The difficulty, in such cases, of fixing the exact date of conception must necessarily render all computation in regard to the precise age of the child uncertain.<sup>e</sup>

i. *Parturition*.—At the end of seven months of utero-gestation, and even a month earlier, the fœtus is capable of an independent existence; provided, from any cause, delivery should be hastened. This is not, however, the *full period*, and although labour may occur at the end of seven months, the usual course is for the fœtus to be carried until the end of about nine calendar months. If it be extruded prior to the period at which it is able to maintain an independent existence, the process is termed *abortion* or *miscarriage*; if between this time and the full period, it is called *premature labour*. From

<sup>a</sup> Op. cit., Amer. Med. Library edit. p. 59.

<sup>b</sup> See a case of a living child born 147 days after conception; and allusion to another where a premature fœtus of eighteen weeks was preserved by great care, in Philad. Med. Examiner, Sept. 7, 1844, p. 214; cited from Medico-chirurgical Review.

<sup>c</sup> Lond. Med. Gaz., xvii. 92; and Medico-chirurg. Review, xxxi. 424; also, Guy, and Taylor, in op. cit. <sup>d</sup> American Journal of the Med. Sciences, April, 1843, p. 499.

<sup>e</sup> See Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, 6th edit., Philad. 1838; Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 755, London, 1842; Dr. W. A. Guy, Principles of Forensic Medicine, part i. p. 177, London, 1843; and A. S. Taylor, Medical Jurisprudence, American edition, by Dr. R. E. Griffith, p. 487, Philad. 1845.

certain records, abortion or premature labour has been estimated to occur, on the average, once in  $78\frac{1}{2}$  cases.<sup>a</sup> In the *Gebüranstalt* of Vienna, the inmates of which are chiefly unmarried, the ratio appears to be more than double, or 1 in 38.13.<sup>b</sup>

With respect to the causes, that give rise to the extrusion, we are in utter darkness. It is in truth as inexplicable as any of the other instinctive operations of the living machine. Yet although this is generally admitted, the discussion of the subject occupies a considerable space in the works of some obstetrical writers.<sup>c</sup> Our knowledge appears to be limited to the fact, that when the fœtus has undergone a certain degree of developement, and the uterus a corresponding distension and organic changes, its contractility is called into action, and the uterine contents are beautifully and systematically expelled. Nor can we pronounce upon the degree of distension, nor appreciate the organic changes that shall give occasion to the exertion of this contractile power. Sometimes, it will supervene after a few months of utero-gestation so as to produce abortion; at other times, it happens when the fœtus is just *viable*; and at others, again, and in the generality of cases, it is not elicited until the full period. In cases of twins the uterus will admit of still greater distension before its contractility is aroused.

In regard to the action of the muscles specially concerned in the

Fig. 315.



Natural Labour.

process, it would seem, that the diaphragm and abdominal muscles are excited to action through an excitor influence conveyed from the uterus to the spinal cord; whilst the contractions of the uterus take place independently of all connexion with the nervous centres,—like the peristole of the intestines, and the systole of the ventricles of the heart. The fœtus has been observed to be expelled after the cessation of the respiratory movements of the mother. This, as has been suggested,<sup>d</sup> has probably occurred in consequence of the uterine fibres retaining their

power of contraction longer than those of the muscles supplied by the cerebro-spinal nerves.

<sup>a</sup> Churchill, *Theory and Practice of Midwifery*, Amer. edit. by Prof. Huston, p. 167. Philad. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> Wilde, *Austria, &c.*, p. 223, Dublin, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Dewees, *Comp. of Midwifery*; see, also, Dr. W. Tyler Smith, *Lond. Lancet*, July 6 and 13, 1844.

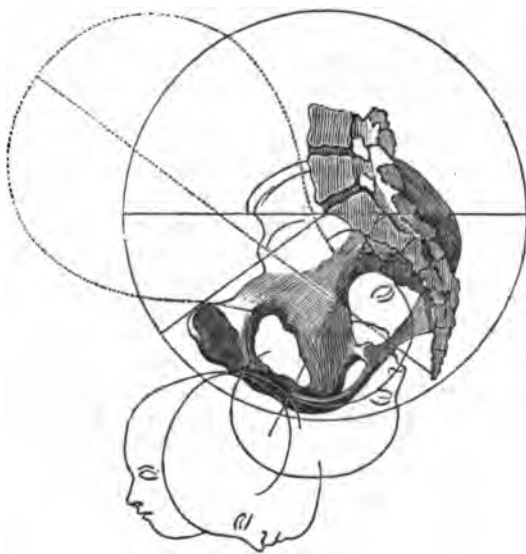
<sup>d</sup> Carpenter, *Human Physiol.* p. 153, Lond. 1842.

A day or two preceding labour, a discharge is occasionally observed from the vagina of a mucous fluid more or less streaked with blood. This is termed the *show*, because it indicates the commencement of some dilatation of the neck, or mouth of the womb,—the forerunner of *labour* or *travail*. The external organs, at the same time, become tumid and flabby. The orifice of the uterus, if an examination be made, is perceived to be enlarging; and its edges are thinner. Along with this, slight grinding pains are experienced in the loins and abdomen. After an uncertain period, pains of a very different character come on, which commence in the loins, and appear to bear down towards the os uteri. These are not constant, but recur at first after long intervals, and subsequently after shorter,—the body of the uterus manifestly contracting with great force, so as to press the ovum down against the mouth of the womb, and to dilate it. In this way, the membranes of the ovum protrude through the os uteri with their contained fluid, the pouch being occasionally termed the *bag of waters*. Sooner or later, the membranes give way, the *waters* are discharged, and the uterus contracts so as to embrace the body of the child, which was previously impracticable, except through the medium of the liquor amnii.

At the commencement of labour, the child's head has not entered the pelvis, the occiput being generally towards the left acetabulum; but, when the uterine contractions become more violent, and are accompanied by powerful efforts on the part of the abdominal muscles, the head enters the pelvis, the mouth of the womb becomes largely dilated,

and the female is in a state of agitation and excitement, owing to the violence of the efforts and the irresistible desire she has of assisting them as far as lies in her power. When the head has entered the pelvis, in the position described, in which the long diameter corresponds to the long diameter of the pelvis, it describes, laterally, an arc of a circle, the face passing into the hollow of the sacrum, and the occiput behind the arch of the pubis. By the continuance of the pains, the head presents at the vulva. The pains now become urgent

Fig. 316.



Rotation of the Head.

and forcing. The os coccygis is pushed backwards, and the perineum is distended,—at times so considerably as to threaten, and even to undergo laceration; the anus is also forced open and protruded; the nymphæ and carunculæ of the vagina are effaced; the labia separated, and the head clears the vulva, from the occiput to the chin, experiencing a vertical rotation as depicted in Fig. 316. When the head is extruded, the shoulders and rest of the body readily follow on account of their smaller dimensions. The child, however, still remains attached to the mother by the navel-string, which has to be tied, and divided at a few fingers' breadth from the umbilicus.

After the birth of the child, the female has generally a short interval of repose; but after a time, slight bearing down pains are experienced, owing to the contraction of the uterus for the separation of the placenta, and of the membranes of the ovum, called the *secundines* or *afterbirth*.

The process of parturition is accomplished in a longer or shorter time in different individuals, and in the same individual in different labours, according to the particular conditions of the female and fœtus. The parts, however, when once dilated, yield much easier afterwards to similar efforts, so that the first labour is generally the most protracted.

After the separation of the secundines, the female is commonly left in a state of debility and fatigue; but this gradually disappears. The uterus also contracts; its vessels become tortuous, small, and their orifices are plugged up. For a short time, blood continues to be discharged from them; but as they become obliterated by the return of the uterus to its usual size, the discharge loses its sanguineous character, and is replaced by one of a paler colour, called the *lochia*, which gradually disappears, and altogether ceases in the course of two or three weeks after delivery.\*

For a day or two after delivery, coagula of blood form in the interior of the uterus, especially in the second and subsequent labours, which excite the organ to contraction for their expulsion. These contractions are accompanied with pain, and are called *after-pains*; and as their object is the removal of that, which interferes with the return of the uterus to its proper dimensions, it is obvious that they ought not to be officiously interfered with.

Whilst the uterus is contracting its dimensions, the other parts gradually resume the condition they were in prior to delivery; so that, in the course of three or four weeks, it may be impracticable to pronounce positively, whether delivery has recently taken place or not. The presence of shining broken streaks, like the remains of cracks, in the skin of the abdomen, caused by previous distension of the abdominal parietes, has been regarded as a sign of former delivery of value; but they are often wanting where delivery has really taken place;<sup>b</sup> and it will be readily understood, that any cause of disten-

\* For an analysis of this fluid, given by Scherer in his *Chemische und Mikroskopische Untersuchungen zur Pathologie*, see Day, in *Simon's Animal Chemistry*, Sydenham edition, p. 338, Lond. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Montgomery, *Art. Pregnancy and Delivery, Signs of*, in *Cyclop. of Pract. Medicine*, Amer. edit. by the author, iii. 694, Lond. 1845.



sion may produce them. These marks are sometimes accompanied by a brown line, extending from the pubis to the umbilicus;<sup>a</sup> and accompanying this dark abdominal line, Dr. Montgomery, in a few instances, has observed another appearance of a similar kind, which consists of a dark coloured circle or areola, surrounding the umbilicus, extending in breadth about a quarter of an inch all around that part, and generally, but not always, varying in depth of tint according to the colour of the hair, eyes, and skin of the woman. Unlike the mammary areola, there is no turgescence or elevation of it above the surface of the surrounding skin, nor are there any prominent follicles upon its disk. Whether it is ever produced under circumstances unconnected with pregnancy remains to be determined by farther observation.<sup>b</sup>

*Labour*, as thus accomplished, is more deserving of the term in the human female than in animals; and this is partly owing to the large size of the foetal head, and partly to the circumstance, that in the animal the axis of the pelvis is the same as that of the body, whilst in the human female, the axis of the brim, as represented by the dotted straight lines in Fig. 316, forms a considerable angle with that of the outlet. In rare cases, the child is extruded without labour-pains. The author was called in the night to a female, who declared to him, that she was awakened by a slight abdominal uneasiness, when she found both the child and secundines expelled; and other cases of a like kind are on record.<sup>c</sup> These facts should be borne in mind in charges of infanticide.

The position of the child—with the face behind and the occiput before—constitutes the usual presentation in natural labour. Of twelve thousand six hundred and thirty-three children, born at the *Hospice de la Maternité* of Paris, twelve thousand one hundred and twenty, according to M. Jules Cloquet, were of this presentation; sixty-three had the face turned forward; one hundred and ninety-eight were

Fig. 317.

*Breech Presentation.*

<sup>a</sup> Montgomery, *Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy*, 6th edit. p. 171, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> Dublin Journal of Med. Sciences, May, 1844, p. 298. See, also, Dr. R. Turner, Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Med. Sciences, Aug. 1842, and Sept. 1844; and Dr. J. R. Cormack, Ibid. Feb. 1844.

<sup>c</sup> T. Lewis, Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journ. of Med. Science, July, 1842; Mr. Rawson, Lond. Lancet, Nov. 27, 1841.

breech presentations (see Fig. 317); in one hundred and forty-seven cases the feet presented; and in three, the knees. All these, how-

Fig. 318.



Arm Presentation.

ever, are cases in which labour can be effected without assistance; the knee and feet presentations being identical—as regards the process of delivery—with that of the breech. But, whenever any other part of the fœtus presents, the position is unfavourable, and requires that the hand should be introduced into the uterus, with the view of bringing down the feet, and converting the case into a foot presentation. The marginal figure of a presentation of the right superior extremity, suffi-

ciently shows, that labour could not be accomplished without the efforts of art.

The following table, drawn up from data furnished by Velpeau, will show the comparative number of presentations, according to the experience of the individuals mentioned.

TABLE EXHIBITING THE RATIO OF PRESENTATIONS IN 1000 CASES.

	According to							
	Merri- man.	Bland.	Mde. Boivin.	Mde. Le chappelle.	Nigle.	Lovati.	Hospital of the Faculté.	Boer.
Regular, or of the vertex,	924	944	969	933	933	911	980	
I. <i>Occipito-anterior</i> , . . .	908		944	910		895		
a. <i>Occipito-cotyloid</i> , (left)			760	717		537		
Do. (right)			179	209				
b. <i>Occipito-pubian</i> , . . .			0.29					
II. <i>Occipito-posterior</i> , . .			9.4	9				
a. <i>Fronto-cotyloid</i> (left)			5.3	7.3				
b. Do. (right)			4.4	2.9				
Face presentation, . . .	2.2	2.6	3.6	4.6				8.8
Mento-iliac (right) . . .				2.6				
Of the pelvis, . . . . .	36	28	29	36	47			29
Of the foot, . . . . .	12.7	9.4		14				10.3
Of the knees, . . . . .			0.19	0.40				
Of the breech, . . . . .	23	13	18	22				19
Of the trunk, . . . . .			4.6	5.3	4.8			
Requiring Forceps, . . .	6.6	4.7	4.6	3.4	36			5.7
Turning, . . . . .	16	4.7		7.8	7.2			5.9
Cephalotomy, . . . . .	3.3	5.2	4.77	0.53	2.4			1.5*

\* Velpeau, *Traité Élémentaire de l'Art des Accouchemens*, Paris, 1829; or Meigs's translation, 2d edit., Philad. 1838. See, also, on the same subject, Dr. Collins's *Practical*

It is found that the period of the twenty-four hours has some influence upon the process of parturition; about five children being born during the night for four during the day.<sup>a</sup>

The parturient and child-bed condition is not devoid of danger to the female; yet the mortality is less than is generally, perhaps, imagined. In some of the great lying-in institutions it has been, however, enormous;<sup>b</sup> and in the *Gebäranstalt*, of Vienna, it is still estimated at 1 in 30.87! The number of deaths, during labour, and subsequently, connected therewith, has been stated to be in Berlin as 1 in 152;<sup>c</sup> in Königsberg, as 1 in 168; and in Wirtemberg, as 1 in 175; a proportion much less than during the last century. Dr. Collins<sup>d</sup> states, that of 16,414 women, delivered in the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, 164 died, or in the proportion of 1 in 100; and if, he observes, from this number we deduct the deaths from puerperal fever, which may be considered *accidental*, the proportion becomes greatly diminished, viz. to 1 in 156 deliveries; and again, if we subtract the deaths from causes not the results of childbirth, the mortality, from effects arising in consequence of parturition, is vastly reduced, viz. to 1 in 244. In the year 1839, childbirth was fatal to 2915 women throughout England and Wales. Of 1,000,000 females living, 368 died from this cause in 1838, and 372 in 1839. About 5 births in 1000, it was estimated, were fatal to the mother.<sup>e</sup> In 1840, the ratio was greater, about 1 in 187.<sup>f</sup> It has been already remarked, that these fatal cases occur more frequently in the case of male than of female births. From the returns of Drs. Clarke and Collins there are reports in the Dublin Hospital of the sex of the child in 368 cases in which the mother died from labour or its consequences. In 231 cases the child was male; in 137 cases female; or the proportion of males to females was as 168 to 100. Taking these statistical facts as data, Prof. Simpson,<sup>g</sup> of Edinburgh, infers, that annually, in Great Britain, "the valuable lives of 500 mothers (to speak within the terms) are lost in childbirth," through the influence and agency of the sex and size of the male infant.

The further details on the subject of parturition belong more appropriately to obstetrics.

j. *Lactation*.—When the child has been separated from the mother, and continues to live by the exercise of its own vital powers, it has still to be dependent upon her for the nutriment adapted to its tender

Treatise on Midwifery, Lond. 1835; Churchill, Theory and Practice of Midwifery, Amer. edit., by Prof. Huston, Philad. 1843; and Wilde, Austria, &c., &c., p. 223, Dublin, 1843.

<sup>a</sup> Quetelet, Sur l'Homme, i. 102, Brux. 1835; Dr. Boek, Nachricht von dem Gesundheitszustande der Stadt Hamburg, von N. H. Julius, s. 157, Hamburg, 1829; and Duglison's Amer. Med. Intelligencer, Sept. 1, 1837, p. 213.

<sup>b</sup> See an article on the subject, by the author, in his Amer. Med. Intelligencer, Sept. 1, 1837, p. 264.

<sup>c</sup> Casper, Beiträge zur Medicinisch. Statistik, u. s. w., Berl. 1825; and Elements of Medical Statistics, by Dr. B. Hawkins, Lond. 1839. See, also, Quetelet, i. 130.

<sup>d</sup> Op. citat., p. 366.

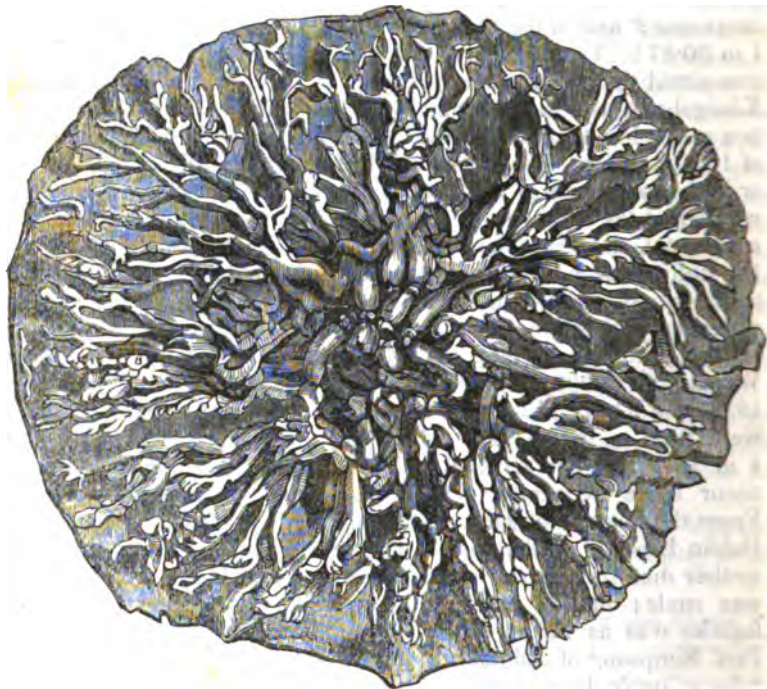
<sup>e</sup> W. Farr, in Third Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England, p. 74, London, 1841.

<sup>f</sup> W. Farr, in Fourth Annual Report, &c., &c., p. 219, Lond. 1842.

<sup>g</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, Oct. 1844; or Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1845.

condition. Whilst in utero, this nutriment consisted of fluids placed in contact with it; but after birth, a secretion serves this purpose, which has to be received into the stomach and undergo the digestive

Fig. 319.



*Milk Ducts in Human Mamma.*

The ducts are filled with wax.—(Sir Asley Cooper.)

process. This secretion is the *milk*. It is prepared by the *mammæ* or *breasts*, the number, size, and situation of which are characteristic of the human species. Instances are, however, on record, of three or more distinct mammæ in the same individual.<sup>a</sup> Two such cases are described by Dr. G. C. M. Roberts, of Baltimore.<sup>b</sup> At times, two nipples are met with on one breast. Three cases of the kind are given by Tiedemann, and one, of late, by Dr. Chowne.<sup>c</sup> In some instances, the supernumerary breasts have been on other parts of the body.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Robt. Lee, London Medical Gazette, Jan. 20, 1838; Medico-chirurg. Transact. vol. xxi., Lond. 1838; and Mr. Thursfield, Lond. Med. Gaz., March 3, 1828, p. 898.

<sup>b</sup> Baltimore Medical and Surgical Journal, ii. 497, Baltimore, 1834.

<sup>c</sup> Lond. Lancet, July 2, 1842, p. 465.

<sup>d</sup> Art. Cas Rares, in Diction. des Sciences Médicales; Journal de Physiologie, par Magendie, Janv. 1827; Hedenus, art. Brust (weibliche) in Encyclop. Wörterbuch der Medicin. Wissenschaft. vi. 352, Berlin, 1832; art. Brustwarze, ibid., p. 406; Davis's Principles and Practice of Obstetric Medicine, ii. 777, Lond. 1836; Petroquin, in Gazette Médicale de Paris, No. xiii., Avril 1, 1837; and Chowne, op. cit.

Each breast contains a mammary gland, surrounded by the fat of the breast, and resting on the pectoralis major muscle. It is formed of several lobes, united by a somewhat dense cellular tissue, and consisting of smaller lobules, which seem, again, composed of round granulations, of a rosy-white colour, and of about the size of a poppy-seed. These granula or acini, according to Reil,<sup>a</sup> cannot be distinguished in the mammæ of the virgin. The glandular granula give origin to the excretory ducts, called *tubuli lactiferi* seu *galactophori*, which are tortuous, extensible, and transparent. These enlarge and unite with each other, so that those of each lobe remain distinct from, and have no communication with, the ducts of any other lobe. All these finally terminate in sinuses, or reservoirs, near the base of the nipple, which are fifteen or eighteen in number, and open on the nipple, without having communication with each other.

The size and shape of the breast are chiefly caused by the cellular tissue in which the mammary gland is situate: this is covered by a thin layer of skin, which is extremely soft and delicate, and devoid of folds. In the middle of the breast is the tubercle, called the *nipple*, *mammella*, or *teat*,—a prominence consisting of an erectile spongy tissue, differing in colour from the rest of the breast.

The nipples do not project directly forwards, but forwards and outwards, for wise purposes, which have been thus depicted by Sir Astley Cooper:—"The natural obliquity of the mammella or nipple forwards and outwards, with a slight turn of the nipple upwards, is one of the most beautiful provisions in nature both for the mother and her child. To the mother, because the child rests upon her arm and lap, in the most convenient position for sucking; for if the nipple and breast had projected directly forwards, the child must have been supported before her in the mother's hands in a most inconvenient and fatiguing position, instead of its reclining upon her side and arm. But it is wisely provided by nature, that when the child reposes upon its mother's arm, it has its mouth directly applied to the nipple, which is turned outwards to receive it, whilst the lower part of the breast forms a cushion upon which the cheek of the infant tranquilly reposes."

The erection of the nipple, which is so manifest during the process of suckling, and can be readily produced by handling it, has been supposed to be owing to an arrangement similar to that of the corpora cavernosa penis, or to a venous circle surrounding the nipple;<sup>c</sup> but Sir Astley Cooper attributes it simply to an afflux of blood into the capillaries of the part.

Around the nipple is the *areola*, which is of a rosy hue in youth, but becomes darker in the progress of life, and the capillary system

Fig. 320.



Commencement of milk ducts, as exhibited in a mercurial injection. — (Sir Astley Cooper.)

<sup>a</sup> Schlemm, art. Brüste, in Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft. vi. 332, Berlin, 1831.

<sup>b</sup> On the Anatomy of the Breast, p. 12, London, 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Prof. Sebastian, Tijdschrift voor Natuurlijke Geschiedenis en Physiologie, door J. Van der Hoeven en W. H. de Vriese, 2de Deel, bl. i., Amsterdam, 1835.

of which is so delicate as to blush, like the countenance, under similar emotions. The changes, produced on the areola by gestation, have been already described. The skin, at the base of the nipple, and on its surface, is rough, owing to the presence of a number of sebaceous follicles, called by Sir Astley Cooper the "tubercles of the areola," which secrete a fluid for the lubrication of the part, and for defending it from the action of the secretions from the mouth of the infant during lactation. Numerous arteries, veins, nerves, and lymphatics,—the anatomical constituents of organic textures in general,—enter into the composition of the mammæ and nipples.\*

The mammary gland of the male is analogous to that of the female, but much smaller.

The secretion of milk is liable to longer intermissions than any other function of the kind. In the unmarried and chaste female, although the blood, whence milk is formed, may be constantly passing to the nipple, no secretion takes place from it. It is only during gestation and some time afterwards, as a general rule, that the necessary excitation exists to produce it. Yet although largely allied to the generative function,—the mammæ undergoing their chief development at puberty and becoming shrivelled in old age,—the secretion may arise independently of impregnation; for it has been witnessed in the unquestionable virgin, in the superannuated female, and even in the male sex. The fact as regards the unimpregnated female is mentioned by Hippocrates. Baudelocque<sup>b</sup> states, that a young girl at Alençon, eight years old, suckled her brother for the space of a month. Dr. Gordon Smith<sup>c</sup> refers to a manuscript in the collection of Sir Hans Sloane, which gives an account of a woman, at the age of sixty-eight, who had not borne a child for more than twenty years, and who nursed her grandchildren, one after another.<sup>d</sup> Professor Hall, of the University of Maryland, related to the author the case of a widow, aged fifty, whom he saw giving suck to one of her grandchildren, although she had not had a child of her own for 20 years previously. The secretion of milk was solicited by putting the child to her breast during the night, whilst weaning it. Dr. Francis, of New York, describes the case of a lady, who, 14 years previously, was delivered of a healthy child after a natural labour. "Since that period," he remarks, "her breasts have regularly secreted milk in great abundance, so that, to use her own language, she could at all times easily perform the office of a nurse:" and Dr. Kennedy,<sup>e</sup> of Ashby de la Zouch, has described the case of a woman, who menstruated during lactation, suckled children uninterruptedly through the full course of forty-seven years, and, in her eighty-first year, had a moderate, but regular supply of milk, which was rich and sweet, and did not differ from that yielded by young and healthy mothers. In a note, with which the author has been favoured by Dr. Samuel Jackson—for

\* See, on the Intimate Structure of the Mammary Glands, Sir Astley Cooper, *op. cit.*; Mr. Solly, *art. Mammary Glands*, *Cyclop. of Anatomy and Physiology*, Part xxi. April, 1841; and Dr. Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 681, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> *Art. d'Accouchement*, i. 188, Paris, 1822.

<sup>c</sup> *Forensic Medicine*, p. 484.

<sup>d</sup> See a similar case, by Mr. Temple, in *North of England Med. and Surg. Journal*, i. 230.

<sup>e</sup> *Medico-Chirurgical Review* for July, 1832.

merly of Northumberland county, Pa., now of Philadelphia—a case is described, of a lady, certainly above sixty-five years of age, who nursed one of her daughter's twins. She had not borne a child for many years, and was suddenly endowed with a full flow of milk. A lady of Northumberland observed to Dr. Jackson, "that she could not but admire the beautiful fulness and contour of her bosom."<sup>a</sup> Dr. Richard Clarke,<sup>b</sup> of Union Town, South Alabama, gives the case of a lady, who had never borne a child, and who was requested to take charge of an infant, during the illness of its mother. In the course of the night, the infant became restless and fretful, and the lady—to quiet it—put her nipple into its mouth. This was done from time to time, until the milk began to flow. An interesting fact, connected with this case, was, that some time afterwards she conceived, and at the expiration of the usual term was delivered of a fine child. Dr. Clarke refers to other cases, which would appear to show, in another form, the intimate and mysterious sympathy that exists between the mammæ and the uterus. Dr. Green<sup>c</sup> has recently recorded the case of a lady, aged 47 years, and the mother of four children, who has had abundance of milk for 27 years past. A period of exactly four years and a half occurred between each birth, and the children were permitted to take the breast till they were running about at play. At the time when Dr. Green wrote, she had been nine years a widow, and was obliged to have her breasts drawn daily, the secretion of milk being so copious. In the Samoan group of islands, the mothers often suckle their children until they are six years old; and Captain Wilkes was informed of an instance where a woman gave nourishment to three children of different ages,—the eldest removing the youngest at times by force from the mother's breast.<sup>d</sup>

According to M. Desormeaux,<sup>e</sup> some women are able to continue suckling almost indefinitely, provided the child be put to the breast. It is not uncommon, he says, in France, to see nurses suckle three children in succession, comprising a period probably of from 30 to 36 months; and cases are not rare where women have given suck for four years, and four years and a half. He himself saw a nurse, from Normandy, who had suckled several children, successively, on the same milk, for upwards of five years; and a lady, worthy of all credit, informed him, that she knew a woman who nursed five children in succession, so that her lactation continued at least seven years. But these, and cases of a similar nature, of which there are many on record,<sup>f</sup> do not possess the same singularity as those of the function being executed by the male. Yet we have the most unquestionable authority in favour of the occurrence of such cases. A bishop of Cork<sup>g</sup> relates the case of a man who suckled his child after the death of his wife. Humboldt adduces one of a man, thirty-two years of

<sup>a</sup> A similar case is given by Audubert, in *Journal de la Société de Médecine Pratique de Montpellier*; and *Encyclographie des Sciences Médicales*, Février, 1841, p. 299.

<sup>b</sup> *Dunglison's American Medical Intelligencer*, April 16, 1838, p. 19.

<sup>c</sup> *New York Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, September, 1844.

<sup>d</sup> *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition, &c., &c.*, ii. 138, Philad. 1845.

<sup>e</sup> *Art. Lactation, Dict. de Méd. xxii.*, 425, Paris, 1838.

<sup>f</sup> *Elliotson's Blumenbach*, 4th edit. p. 509, Lond. 1828.

<sup>g</sup> *Philos. Trans.* xli. 813.

age, who nursed his child for five months on the secretion from his breasts; Captain Franklin gives a similar instance; and Professor Hall, of the University of Maryland, exhibited to his obstetrical class, in the year 1827, a coloured man, fifty-five years of age, who had large, soft, well-formed mammæ, rather more conical than those of the female, and projecting fully seven inches from the chest; with perfect and large nipples. The glandular structure seemed to the touch to be exactly like that of the female. This man, according to Professor Hall, had officiated as wet-nurse, for several years, in the family of his mistress, and he represented, that the secretion of milk was induced by applying the children, intrusted to his care, to the breasts, during the night. When the milk was no longer required, great difficulty was experienced in arresting the secretion. His genital organs were fully developed.<sup>b</sup>

It appears, therefore, that the secretion of milk may be caused, independently of a uterus, by soliciting the action of the mammary glands, but that this is a mere exception to the general rule, according to which the secretion is as intermittent as gestation itself.

We have noticed, as one of the signs of pregnancy, that the breasts become enlarged and turgid, denoting the aptitude for the formation of the fluid; and it not unfrequently happens, that, towards the middle and latter periods of pregnancy, milk will distil from the nipples. This fluid, however, as well as that which flows from the breasts during the first two or three days after delivery, differs somewhat from milk, containing more serum and butter, and less casein, and it is conceived to be more laxative, so as to aid the expulsion of the meconium. This first milk is called *colostrum*, *protogala*, &c., and, in the cow, constitutes the *biestings* or *beastings*. Generally, about the third day after confinement, the mammæ become tumid, hard, and even painful, and the secretion from this time is established, the pain and distension soon disappearing. The circumstances most worthy of note connected with the colostrum of the cow, when physiologically considered, are, according to Dr. John Davy<sup>c</sup>—who has carefully inquired into its chemical and other properties—the concentration of nutritive matter in it; the greater facility of its coagulation by rennet compared with older milk, and its greater power of resisting change, when exposed to the action of atmospheric air,—qualities which, he thinks, adapt it well for the first food of the new being. Its ready coagulation may adapt it to the stomach, in which the gastric juice is probably at first in small quantity and feeble. Its power of resisting change, and remaining semi-fluid may adapt a part of it to the intestines to promote the removal of the meconium; whilst its concentration as nutritive matter may fit it to perform for

<sup>a</sup> Narrative of a Journey to the Polar Sea, p. 157.

<sup>b</sup> For similar cases, see C. W. Mehliss, Ueber Viriliscenz und Rejuvenescenz thierischer Körper, s. 41 & 71, Leipz. 1838; Belloc, Cours de Médec. Légale, p. 52, Paris, 1819; Fodéré, Traité de Médecine Légale, i. 440; Coxe's Medical Museum, i. 267; Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, 6th edit. i. 188, Philad. 1838; and Montgomery, on the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, p. 70, London, 1837, or Dunglison's Amer. Medical Library edition, Philadelphia, 1838.

<sup>c</sup> Transactions of the Medico-chirurgical Society, 1845; and Ranking's Abstract, vol. i. part ii. p. 277, American edition. New York, 1846.



the calf the same part, which the substance of the egg serves that enters the intestines during the latter stage of foetal development in birds, reptiles, and fishes. Whether the first milk of the human female possess these characters has not yet been determined.

It is hardly necessary to discuss the views of Richerand,<sup>a</sup> who considers the milk to be derived from the lymph; of others, who derive it from the chyle; of Raspail, who is disposed to think, that the mammary glands are in connexion, by media of a communication yet unknown, with the mucous surface of the stomach, and that they subtract from the alimentary mass the salts and organizable materials which enter into the composition of the milk; or of Girard of Lyons, who gratuitously asserts, that there is in the abdomen an apparatus of vessels,—intermediate between the uterus and mammæ,—which continue inactive, except during gestation, and for some time after delivery, but, in these conditions, are excited to activity.<sup>b</sup> All these notions are entirely hypothetical, and there is no reason for believing, that this secretion differs from others as regards the kind of blood from which it is separated. The separation takes place in the tissue of the gland, and the product is received by the lactiferous ducts, along which it is propelled by the fresh secretion continuously arriving, and by the contractile action of the ducts themselves, the milk remaining in the ducts and sinuses, until the mammæ, at times, are considerably distended and painful.

The excretion of the milk takes place at intervals. When the lactiferous ducts are sufficiently filled, a degree of distension and uneasiness is felt, which calls for the removal of the contained fluid. At times, the flow occurs spontaneously; but, commonly, only when solicited either by sucking or drawing the breast,—the secretion under such circumstances being very rapid, and the contraction of the galactophorous ducts such as to project the milk through the orifices in a thready stream.

Milk is a highly azoted fluid, composed of water, casein, sugar of milk, certain salts,—as chloride of sodium, phosphate, and acetate of potassa, with a vestige of lactate of iron and earthy phosphate,—and a little lactic acid. According to Berzelius,<sup>c</sup> cow's milk consists of cream, and milk properly so called,—the *cream* consisting of butter, 4·5; cheese, 3·5; whey, 92·0;—and the *whey*, of milk and salt, 4·4;—the *milk* containing water, 928·75;—cheese, with a trace of butter, 28·01; sugar of milk, 35·00; chloride of potassium, 1·70; phosphate of potassa, 0·25; lactic acid, acetate of potassa, and lactate of iron, 6·00; and phosphate of lime, 0·30.<sup>d</sup>

Raspail<sup>e</sup> defines milk to be an aqueous fluid, holding albumen and

<sup>a</sup> Nouveaux Elémens de Physiologie, 7ème édit. Paris, 1817.

<sup>b</sup> Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de édit. iv. 141. Paris, 1839.

<sup>c</sup> Medico-chirurgical Transactions, vol. iii.

<sup>d</sup> See, on the Microscopic Examination, &c., of the Milk, Donné, Du Lait, et en particulier de celui des Nourrices, &c., Paris, 1837, or notice thereof in Brit. and For. Med. Review, July, 1838, p. 181; and Comptes rendus, Sept. 18, 1839, or Dunglison's Amer. Med. Intelligencer, Jan. 1, 1840, p. 306; also, for an elaborate account of the Milk, his Cours de Microscopie, pp. 347–478, Paris, 1844; and Nasse, Müller's Arch. 1840, Heft, iii., or British and Foreign Medical Review, Jan. 1841, p. 228.

<sup>e</sup> Chimie Organique, p. 345. Paris, 1833.

oil in solution by means of an alkali, or alkaline salt, which he suggests may be the acetate of ammonia,—and, in suspension, an immense number of albuminous and oleaginous globules. The following table exhibits the discrepant results of the investigations of Brisson, Boyssou, Stipriaan Luiscius and Bondt, Schübler, and John, in 1000 parts of the milk of different animals—as given by Burdach.\*

Observers.	Specific gravity	Butter.	Cheese.	Sugar of milk.	Water.	Extract.
Ewe's milk. { Brisson, Boyssou, Luiscius, John,	10409	38-24	51-26	20-73	886-19	3-45
	10350	58-12	153-75	41-87	746-25	
		54-68	31-25	39-06	875-00	
Cow's milk. { Brisson, Boyssou, Luiscius, Schübler, John,	10324	24-88	39-40	31-33	900-92	3-45
	10280	26-87	89-37	30-62	853-12	
		24-00	50-47	77-00	848-53	
		23-43	93-75	39-06	843-75	
Goat's milk. { Brisson, Boyssou, Luiscius, John,	10341	29-95	52-99	20-73	892-85	3-45
	10360	45-62	91-25	43-75	819-37	
		11-71	105-45	23-43	849-39	
Mare's milk. { Brisson, Boyssou, Luiscius, John,	10364		18-43	32-25	938-36	10-36
	10450	0-57	16-25	87-50	896-25	
		0-00	64-84	35-15	900-00	
Ass's milk. { Brisson, Boyssou, Luiscius, John,	10355	0-92	19-58	39-97	932-60	6-91
	10230	0-00	33-12	45-00	921-87	
		0-00	11-71	46-87	941-40	
Brisson, Boyssou, Luiscius, John,	10203					6-91
		32-25	11-52	46-08	903-92	
	10250	30-00	26-87	73-12	870-00	
		23-43	15-62	39-06	921-87	b

From this table, an approximation may be made as to the main differences between the milk of those animals, but it is not easy to explain the signal discrepancy amongst observers as to the quantity of the different materials in the milk of the same animal. Much, of course, may be dependent upon the state of the milk at the time of the experiment, but this can scarcely account for the whole discrepancy.

From a great number of experiments, MM. Deyeux and Parmen-tier<sup>c</sup> classed six kinds of milk, which they examined, according to

\* Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, B. ii. and v. 2te Auflage, s. 259, Leipz. 1833. See, also, Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 684. Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> See, also, MM. O'Henry and A. Chevalier, Journal de Pharmacie, Juin et Juillet, 1839; M. Lecanu, *ibid.*, Avril, 1839; MM. D'Aroet et Petit, Revue Médicale, Fév. ou Mars, 1839: and Sir Astley Cooper and Dr. G. Bird, in Sir Astley Cooper on the Anatomy of the Breast. Lond. 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Précis d'Expér., &c., sur les différentes espèces de Lait, Strasbourg, an vii. 1790.

the following table, as regards the relative quantity of the materials they contained.

Casein.	Butter.	Sugar of Milk.	Serum.
Goat. Sheep. Cow.	Sheep. Cow. Goat.	Woman. Ass. Mare.	Ass. Woman. Mare.
Ass. Woman. Mare.	Woman. Ass. Mare.	Cow. Goat. Sheep.	Cow. Goat. Sheep.

Human milk, therefore, contains more sugar of milk and less cheesy matter than that of the cow; hence it is sweeter, more liquid, less coagulable, and incapable of being made into cheese. It has also albuminous, oleaginous, and saccharine ingredients combined, so as to adapt it admirably as an aliment for the young; and of all the secreted fluids it appears to be most nearly allied to blood in its composition.<sup>a</sup>

M. Romanet<sup>b</sup> has lately affirmed, that the globules in cow's milk are wholly formed of butter, which exists as a pulp, enveloped in a white, translucent, elastic and resistant pellicle; and that the cyst is broken in churning, by which the butter escapes, and the pellicles floating about separately constitute the white particles that give consistence to buttermilk.

When human milk is first drawn, it is of a bluer colour than that of the cow. It resembles rather whey, or cow's milk much diluted with water. If allowed to rest, it separates, like the milk of other animals, into cream and milk,—the quantity of the cream being one-fifth to one-third of that of the milk. The milky portion, however, appears semitransparent like whey, instead of being white and opaque like that of the cow. During the first days of its remaining at rest, abundance of cream and a little curd are separated, and lactic acid is developed. The specific gravity of human milk was found by Dr. Rees to be 1·0358, and the solid contents 12 per cent. The specific gravity of the cream was 1·021.<sup>c</sup>

The most recent analyses of human milk are by Clemm.<sup>d</sup> They are as follows:—

	The 4th day after delivery.	The 9th day after delivery.	The 12th day after delivery.
Water,	879·848	885·818	905·809
Solid constituents,	120·152	114·182	94·191
Butter,	42·968	35·316	33·454
Casein,	35·333	36·912	29·111
Sugar of milk and extractive matters,	41·135	42·979	31·537
Salts,	2·095	1·691	1·939

Casein—the azoted constituent of milk—is distinguished from fibrin

<sup>a</sup> Dr. G. O. Rees, art. Milk, *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.*

<sup>b</sup> *Comptus rendus*, Avril, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> Sir Astley Cooper, *op. cit.*

<sup>d</sup> Scherer, in *Wagner's Handwörterbuch der Physiologie*, art. Milch: cited in Ranking, *op. cit.* p. 278.

and albumen by its great solubility, and by not coagulating when heated. This is regarded by Liebig<sup>a</sup> as "the chief constituent of the mother's blood. To convert casein into blood no foreign substance is required, and in the conversion of the mother's blood into casein no elements of the constituents of the blood have been separated."

The quantity and character of the milk differ according to the quantity and character of the food,—a circumstance, which was one of the greatest causes for the belief, that the lymphatics or chyloferous vessels convey to the mammæ the materials for the secretion. The milk is, however, situate in this respect like the urine, which varies in quantity and quality, according to the amount and kind of solid or liquid food taken. The milk is more abundant, thicker, and less acid, if the female lives on animal food, and possesses the opposite qualities when vegetable diet is used. It is apt, also, to be impregnated with heterogeneous matters, taken up from the digestive canal. The milk and the butter of cows indicate unequivocally the character of their pasturage, especially if they have fed on the turnip, wild onion, &c. Medicine, given to the mother, may in this way act upon the infant.<sup>b</sup> Serious—almost fatal—narcotism was induced in the infant of a professional friend of the author, by a dose of morphia administered to his wife.

It would seem, that occasionally the secretion of the two glands differs. A case has been related in which the milk of the right breast had a distinctly salt taste, whilst that of the opposite breast was of the ordinary sweetness.<sup>c</sup> A difference, also, is at times observed in the number and size of the globules of the milk obtained from the two breasts. Of late, M. Devergie<sup>d</sup> has found by examination with the microscope, that the milk of women differs not only in respect to the size of the globules, but also in the number of these,—a high or low amount of globules indicating richness or poorness of the milk generally. Of 100 nurses, 17 had the large globuled variety; 22 the small globuled; and 61 the medium size.

The quantity of milk secreted is not always in proportion to the bulk of the mammæ: a female whose bosom is of middle size often secretes more than another in whom it is much more developed;—the greater size being usually owing to the larger quantity of adipous tissue surrounding the mammary gland, and this tissue is in nowise concerned in the function. The ordinary quantity of milk that can be squeezed from either breast at any one time, and which must consequently have been contained in its tubes and reservoirs, is about two ounces.<sup>e</sup>

The secretion of milk usually continues until the period when the organs of mastication of the infant have acquired the necessary de-

<sup>a</sup> Animal Chemistry, Amer. edit. p. 51, Cambridge, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> See, on this subject, and also for an analysis of the Milk, Simon, *Journal de Pharmacie*, Juin, 1839, and Sir Astley Cooper on the Anatomy of the Breast, Lond. 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Hartmann, in Mittheilungen aus dem Archiv. der Gesellschaft practischer Aerzte zu Riga, 1<sup>o</sup> sammlung. Leipz. Riga & Mitau, 1839, cited in Brit. and For. Med. Rev. Oct. 1841, p. 430.

<sup>d</sup> Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Médecine, tom. x. Paris, 1843.

<sup>e</sup> Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 692, Lond. 1842.

velopement for the digestion of solid food : it generally ceases during the second year. For a great part, or the whole of this time, the menstrual flux is suspended ; and if both the secretions,—mammary and menstrual,—go on together, the former is usually impoverished, and in small quantity. This, at least, is the general opinion. Some, however, think, that no general rule can be established on the subject ; and that the condition of the child's health ought to be the only guide. M. Gendrin would on no account permit a woman to continue nursing after the catamenia had returned. The subject has been investigated by M. Raciborski,\* who laid the results before the Académie Royale de Médecine, of Paris, on the 31st of May, 1843. His inferences are,—that, contrary to generally received opinions, the milk of nurses who menstruate during suckling does not differ sensibly, in physical, chemical, or microscopic characters, from that of nurses whose catamenia are suspended ;—that the only difference, which can be detected between the two kinds of milk, is, that in most cases the milk of menstruating nurses contains less cream during the menstrual periods than in the intervals, which accounts for the bluish appearance presented occasionally by such milk ;—and that a nurse should never be rejected merely because she menstruates.

Whilst lactation continues, the female is less likely to conceive ; and hence the importance,—were there not even more weighty reasons,—of the mother's suckling her own child, in order to prevent the too rapid succession of children. From observations made at the Manchester Lying-in Hospital on one hundred and sixty married women, Mr. Roberton<sup>b</sup> concludes, that in seven out of eight women, who suckle for as long a period as the working classes in England are in the habit of doing—about fifteen and a half months on the average—there will be an interval of fifteen months between parturition and the commencement of the subsequent pregnancy ; and that, in a majority of instances, when suckling is prolonged to even nineteen or twenty months, pregnancy does not take place till after weaning. In a work on the law of population and subsistence, Dr. Loudon<sup>c</sup> lays down the theory, that the laws of nature require lactation to be prolonged for three years, and he expresses an opinion, that the antagonism between the uterus and the mammæ is so great as usually to prevent conception in women who have infants at the breast. The opinion does not agree, however, with the facts arrived at by Dr. Roberton, and it is still more opposed to those of Dr. Laycock,<sup>d</sup> who states that 135 married women afforded 209 pregnancies during 766 lactations, or 1 pregnancy in 3·66 lactations, or 27 per cent. The 209 pregnancies occurred in 76 females—that is, 56 per cent. became pregnant whilst suckling ; but in 30 of these,

\* Dublin Medical Press, Aug. 2d, 1843 ; cited in the American Journal of the Med. Sciences, Oct. 1843, p. 455.

<sup>b</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, Jan. 1837. See, on the same subject, Mr. Laycock, Dublin Med. Press, Oct. 26, 1842, or Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences, Jan. 1843, p. 184.

<sup>c</sup> Solution du Problème de la Population, &c., Paris, 1842 ; cited by Dr. West, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev. April, 1844, p. 541.

<sup>d</sup> Dublin, Medical Press, Oct. 26, 1842, and Dr. West, *ibid.*

pregnancy under these circumstances occurred only once. If the thirty be deducted, there remain 46 or 33·9 per cent., or nearly 1 in 3 who became pregnant on more than one occasion whilst suckling; and 19 of these, or 1 in 7 had always—after their first pregnancy—conceived whilst suckling.

When menstruation recurs during suckling, it is an evidence that the womb has again the organic activity which befits it for impregnation.

## CHAPTER II.

### FETAL EXISTENCE.—EMBRYOLOGY,

THE subject of foetal existence forms so completely a part of the function just considered, that its investigation naturally succeeds that of the part performed by the parents in its production, and more especially as the development of the ovum is synchronous with the uterine changes that have been pointed out.

#### 1. SPECIAL ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY OF THE FŒTUS.

a. *Dependencies of the Fœtus.*—These are the parts of the ovum, that form its parietes, attach it to the uterus, connect it with the fœtus, and are inservient to the nutrition and developement of the new being.

They are generally conceived to consist,—*First*, of two membranes, according to common belief, which constitute the parietes of the ovule, and which are concentric; the outermost, called the *chorion*,—the innermost, filled with a fluid, in which the fœtus is placed, and called the *amnion* or *amnios*. By Boer and Granville,<sup>a</sup> a third and outer membrane has been admitted,—the *cortical membrane* or *cortex ovi*. *Secondly*, of a spongy, vascular body, situate without the chorion, covering about one-quarter of the ovule, and connecting it with the uterus,—the *placenta*. *Thirdly*, of a cord of vessels, called the *umbilical cord* or *navel string*—extending from the placenta to the fœtus, the body of which is penetrated at the umbilicus by vessels; and *lastly*, of three vesicles—the *umbilical*, *allantoid*, and *erythroid*, [?] which are considered to be concerned in foetal nutrition.

1. The *chorion*—which has received various names<sup>b</sup>—is the outermost of the membranes of the ovum. About the twelfth day after conception, according to Velpeau,<sup>c</sup> it is thick, opaque, resisting, and flocculent at both surfaces. These flocculi, in the part of the ovum that corresponds to the tunica decidua reflexa, aid its adhesion to that membrane; but in the part where the ovum corresponds to the uterus they become developed to constitute the placenta. At its inner surface, the chorion corresponds to the amnion. These two

<sup>a</sup> Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, Lond. 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Haller, Element. Physiol. viii. 188; Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, ii. 57; and Velpeau, Embryologie, Paris, 1833.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

membranes are, however, separated during the earliest period of foetal existence, by an albuminous fluid;\* but at the expiration of three months, the liquid disappears and they are afterwards in contact. By many anatomists, the chorion is conceived to consist originally of two laminæ; and by Burdach<sup>b</sup> these have been distinguished by different names; the outer lamina being called by him *exochorion*; the inner *endochorion*. Velpeau denies this, and asserts, that he has never been able to separate them, even by the aid of previous maceration.<sup>c</sup>

As the placenta is formed on the uterine side of the chorion, the membrane is reflected over the foetal surface of that organ, and is continued over the umbilical cord, as far as the umbilicus of the foetus, where it is confounded with the skin, of which it consequently appears to be a dependence. As pregnancy advances, the chorion becomes thinner, and less tenacious and dense, so that at the full period it is merely a thin, transparent, colourless membrane, much more delicate than the amnion. Haller, Blumenbach and Velpeau affirm it to be devoid of vessels; but, according to Wrisberg, it receives some from the umbilical trunks of the foetus, and, according to others, from the decidua. Dutrochet conceives it to be an extension of the foetal bladder. Its vascularity, according to Dr. Granville, is proved by its diseases, which are chiefly of an inflammatory character, ending in thickening of its texture; and he affirms, that there is a preparation in the collection of Sir Charles Clarke, which shows the vessels of the chorion as evidently as if they were injected.

2. The *amnion* lines the chorion concentrically. It is filled with a serous fluid, and contains the foetus. In the first days of foetal existence, it is thin, transparent, easily lacerable, and somewhat resembling the retina. At first, it adheres to the chorion only by a point, which corresponds to the abdomen of the foetus,—the other portions of the membranes being separated by the fluid already mentioned, called the *false liquor amnii*. Afterwards, the membranes coalesce, and adhere by very delicate cellular filaments; but the adhesion is feeble, except at the placenta and umbilical cord. In the course of gestation, this membrane becomes thicker and tougher; and, at the full period, it is more tenacious than the chorion, elastic, semitransparent and of a whitish colour. Like the chorion, it covers the foetal surface of the placenta, envelopes the umbilical cord, passes to the umbilicus of the foetus, and commingles there with the skin.<sup>d</sup>

It has been a question, whether the amnion be supplied with blood-vessels. Velpeau denies it: Haller and others have maintained the affirmative. Haller asserts, that he saw a branch of the umbilical artery creeping upon it. The fact of the existence of a fluid within it, which is presumed to be secreted by it, would also greatly favour the affirmative. But, admitting that it is supplied with blood-vessels, a difference has existed with regard to the source whence they pro-

\* Purkinje, art. Ei, Encyclopæd. Wörterbuch der Medicinisch. Wissenschaft. x. 149, Berlin, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Op. citat. ii. 57.

<sup>c</sup> See, also, Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 492, Braunschweig, 1832; and Purkinje, art. Ei, in Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch. x. 144, Berlin, 1834.

<sup>d</sup> Velpeau, Embryologie, &c. Paris, 1833.

ceed; and anatomical investigation has not succeeded in dispelling it. Monro affirms, that on injecting warm water into the umbilical arteries of the fœtus, the water oozed from the surface of the amnion. Wrisberg asserts, that he noticed the injection to stop between the chorion and amnion; and Chaussier obtained the same results as Monro, by injecting the vessels of the mother.

The amnion contains a serous fluid, the quantity of which is in an inverse ratio to the size of the new being; so that its weight may be several drachms, when that of the fœtus is only a few grains. At first, the *liquor amnii*,—for so it is called,—is transparent; but, at the full period, it has a milky appearance, owing to flocculi of an albuminous substance held in suspension by it. It has a saline taste, a spermatic smell, and is viscid and glutinous to the touch. Vauquechin and Buniva<sup>a</sup> found it to contain, water, 98·8; albumen, chloride of sodium, soda, phosphate of lime, and lime, 1·2. That of the cow, according to these gentlemen, contains amniotic acid; but Prout, Dulong, and Labillardière and Lassaigne were not able to detect it. Dr. Rees analyzed several specimens. He found its specific gravity to be about 1·007 or 1·008, and its mean composition in two cases at 7½ months to be as follows: water, 986·8; albumen (traces of fatty matter), 2·8; salts soluble in water, 3·7; albumen from albuminate of soda, 1·6; salts soluble in alcohol, 3·4; lactic acid, urea, 1·7. Total, 1000. The salts consisted of chloride of sodium, and carbonate of soda, with traces of alkaline sulphate and phosphate.<sup>b</sup> Dr. Vogt analyzed it at two different periods of pregnancy, at 3½ months and 6 months, and found the constituents to vary as follows:

	3½ Months.	6 Months.
Water, . . . . .	978·45	990·29
Alcoholic extract, consisting of uncertain animal matter and lactate of soda, . . . }	3·69	0·34
Chloride of sodium, . . . . .	5·95	2·40
Albumen (as residuum) . . . . .	10·79	6·77
Sulphate and phosphate of lime, and loss, . .	0·14	0·30
	1000·	1000·
Specific gravity, . . . . .	1·0182	1·0092

No inferences can, however, be drawn from these cases as to the proportion of solid matters at different periods of utero-gestation, inasmuch as the subject of the first case died of an inflammatory disease; the other in a state of cachexia. Prout<sup>d</sup> found some sugar of milk in the liquor amnii of the human female; Berzelius detected fluoric acid in it; Scheele, free oxygen;<sup>e</sup> and Lassaigne,<sup>f</sup> in one experiment, a gas resembling atmospheric air; in others, a gas composed of carbonic acid and azote. J. Müller,<sup>g</sup> however, was never

<sup>a</sup> *Annales de Chimie*, tom. xxxiii.; and *Mémoire de la Société Médicale d'Emulation*, iii. 229.

<sup>b</sup> Ansell, *Lectures on the Physiology and Pathology of the Blood*, April 25, 1840, p. 154.

<sup>c</sup> Müller's *Archiv.*; and *Brit. and For. Med. Review*, July, 1838, p. 248.

<sup>d</sup> *Annals of Philosophy*, v. 417.

<sup>e</sup> *Dissert. de Liquoris Amnii Arteris Asperis Fœtuum Humanorum Naturâ et Usu*, &c., Copenh. 1799.

<sup>f</sup> *Archiv. Général. de Méd.*, ii. 308.

<sup>g</sup> *Handbuch der Physiologie*, i. 305, Berlin, 1833.



able to detect oxygen in it. The chemical history of this substance is, consequently, sufficiently uncertain, nor is its origin placed upon surer grounds;—some physiologists ascribing it to the mother, others to the fœtus;—opinions fluctuating, according to the presumed source of the vessels, that supply the amnion with arterial blood. It has even been supposed to be the transpiration of the fœtus, or its urine. One reply to these views is, that we find it in greater relative proportion when the fœtus is small. Meckel thinks, that it chiefly proceeds from the mother, but that, about the termination of pregnancy, it is furnished in part by the fœtus. The functions, however, to which, as we shall see, it is probably inservient, would almost constrain us to consider it a secretion from the maternal vessels; and what perhaps favours this notion is the fact, that if a female be made to take rhubarb for some time prior to parturition, the liquor amnii will be found tinged by it.\* It is interesting, also, to recollect, that, in the experiments of Dr. Blundell,—which consisted in obliterating the vulvo-uterine canal in rabbits, and, when they had recovered from the effects of the injury, putting them to the male,—although impregnation did not take place, the womb,—as in extra-uterine pregnancy,—was evolved, and the waters collected in it. The fluid, consequently, must, in these cases, have been secreted from the interior of the uterus. May not the liquor amnii be secreted, in this manner, throughout the whole of gestation, and pass through the membranes of the ovum by simple imbibition? and may not the fluid secretions of the fœtus, which are discharged into the liquor amnii, pass through the membranes, and enter the system of the mother, in the same way?

The quantity of the liquor amnii varies in different individuals, and in the same individual at different pregnancies, from four ounces to as many pints. Occasionally, it exists to such an amount as to throw obscurity even over the very fact of pregnancy. An instance of this kind, strongly elucidating the necessity of the most careful attention on the part of the practitioner in such cases, occurred in the practice of a respectable London practitioner,—a friend of the author. The abdomen of a lady had been for some time enlarging by what was supposed to be abdominal dropsy; fluctuation was evident, yet the case appeared to be equivocal. A distinguished accoucheur, and a surgeon of the highest eminence, were called in consultation, and after examination the latter declared, that “it was an Augean stable, which nothing but the trocar could clear out.” As the lady, however, was even then complaining of intermittent pain, it was deemed advisable to make an examination *per vaginam*. The os uteri was found dilated and dilating, and in a few hours after this formidable decision, she was delivered of a healthy child, the gush of liquor amnii being enormous. After its discharge, the lady was reduced to the natural size, and the *dropsy*, of course, disappeared.<sup>b</sup>

3. The *cortical membrane* or *cortex ovi* is, according to Boer and

\* Granville, *Graphic Illustrations of Abortion*, p. 21, London, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> See, also, for cases in which pregnancy was mistaken for dropsy, Dr. Cowan, *Provincial Med. and Surg. Journ.* July 24, 1844; cited in *Amer. Journal of the Med. Sciences*, Oct. 1844, p. 522.

Granville,<sup>a</sup> the one, which is usually regarded as a uterine production, and denominated the *decidua reflexa*. It surrounds the ovule when it descends into the uterus, and envelopes the shaggy chorion. This membrane is destined to be absorbed during the first months of utero-gestation, so as to expose the next membrane to the contact of the decidua, with which a connexion takes place in the part where the placenta is to be formed. In that part, Boer and Granville consider, that the cortex ovi is never altogether obliterated, but only made thinner; and in process of time it is converted into a mere pellicle or envelope, which not only serves to divide the filiform vessels of the chorion into groups or cotyledons, in order to form the placenta, but also covers those cotyledons. This Dr. Granville calls the *membrana propria*.

4. *Placenta*.—This is a soft, spongy, vascular body, formed at the surface of the chorion, adherent to the uterus, and connected with the fœtus by the umbilical cord. The placenta is not in existence during the first days of the embryo state; but its formation commences, perhaps, with the arrival of the embryo in the uterus. In the opinion of some, the flocculi, which are at first spread uniformly over the whole external surface of the chorion, gradually congregate from all parts of the surface into one, uniting with vessels proceeding from the uterus, and traversing the decidua, to form the placenta; the decidua disappearing from the uterine surface of the placenta about the middle of pregnancy, so that the latter comes into immediate contact with the uterus. In the opinion of others, the placenta is formed by the separation of the layers of the chorion, and by the developement of the different vessels that creep between them. Velpeau<sup>b</sup> maintains, that the placenta forms only at the part of the ovule which is not covered by the true decidua, and which is immediately in contact with the uterus; and that it results from the developement of the granulations that cover this part of the chorion; these granulations or villi, according to Velpeau, being gangliform organs containing the rudiments of the placental vessels. Others, again, regard it as formed by the growth of the vessels of the uterus into the decidua serotina. An accurate histologist, Mr. Goodsir,<sup>c</sup> has recently inquired into this subject, and the following is his account of the incipient formation of the placenta from the elements supplied by the vascular villi of the chorion on the one hand, and the decidua on the other. The vessels of the decidua enlarge, and assume the appearance of sinuses, encroaching on the space formerly occupied by the cellular decidua, in the midst of which the villi of the chorion are embedded. The increase in the caliber of the decidual capillaries goes on to such an extent, that finally the villi are completely bound up and covered by the membrane which constitutes the walls of the vessels,—this membrane filling the contour of all the villi, and even passing to a certain extent over the branches and stems of the tufts. Between

<sup>a</sup> Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, part iv. Lond. 1835.

<sup>b</sup> Embryologie ou Ovologie Humaine, p. 63.

<sup>c</sup> Anatomical and Pathological Considerations, p. 60, Edinb. 1845; cited in Ranking's Abstract, Pt. i. vol. i. p. 276, Amer. edit. New York, 1845.

this membrane, or wall of the enlarged decidual vessels, and the internal membrane of the villi, there still remains a layer of the cells of the decidua. From this up to the full period, all that portion of decidua in connexion with the group of enlarged capillaries and vascular tufts of the chorion, and which, according to Mr. Goodsir, may be now called a placenta, is divided into two portions. The first portion of the decidua in connexion with the placenta, or forming a part of it, is situate between that organ and the wall of the uterus. "This," says Mr. Goodsir, "is the only portion of the placental decidua, with which anatomists have been hitherto acquainted, and I shall name it the parietal portion. It has a gelatinous appearance, and consists of rounded or oval cells. Two sets of vessels pass into it from the uterus. The first set includes vessels of large size, which pass through it for the purpose of supplying the placenta with maternal blood for the use of the fœtus. These may be named the maternal functional vessels of the placenta. The second set are capillary vessels, and pass into this portion of the decidua for the purpose of nourishing it. They are the nutritive vessels of the placenta."

The mode in which the placenta is attached to the uterus has always been an interesting question with physiologists; and it has been revived, by Messrs. Lee,<sup>a</sup> Radford,<sup>b</sup> and others. A common opinion has been, that the large venous canals of the uterus are uninterruptedly continuous with those of the placenta. Wharton and Reuss,<sup>c</sup> and a number of others, conceive that, at an early period of pregnancy, the part of the uterus in contact with the ovum becomes fungous or spongy, and that the *fungosities*, which constitute the uterine placenta, commingle and unite with those of the chorion so intimately, that laceration necessarily occurs when the placenta is extruded; and Dubois goes so far as to consider milk fever as a true traumatic disease, produced by such rupture! The opinion of Messrs. Lee, Radford, Velpeau, and others is, that the maternal vessels do not terminate in the placenta; but that apertures—portions scooped out, as it were,—exist in their parietes, which are closed up, according to the two first gentlemen, by the true decidua;—according to Velpeau, by a membranule or anorganic pellicle, which he conceives to be thrown out on the fungous surface of the placenta, or by some valvular arrangement, the nature of which has not been discovered; but these apertures have no connexion, in his opinion, with any vascular orifice, either in the membrane or the placenta. The mode, therefore, in which these authors consider the placenta to be attached to the uterus is, so far as it goes, somewhat unfavourable to the idea generally entertained, that the maternal vessels pour their fluid into the maternal side of the placenta, whence it is taken up by the radicles of the umbilical vein. Whatever blood is exhaled must necessarily pass through the decidua, according to Lee and Radford; or through

<sup>a</sup> Philosoph. Trans. for 1832; and Remarks on the Pathology and Treatment of some of the most important Diseases of Women. Lond. 1833.

<sup>b</sup> On the Structure of the Human Placenta. Manchester, 1837.

<sup>c</sup> Novæ quædam Observationes circa Structuram Vasor. in Placent. Human. et peculiarem hujus cum Utero Nexum. Tubing. 1784.

the pellicle, according to Velpeau. More recently, Dr. Lee<sup>a</sup> has somewhat modified his views, and now believes, that the circulation in the human ovum, in the third month of gestation, is carried on in the following manner:—The maternal blood is conveyed by the arteries of the uterine decidua into the interstices of the placenta and villi of the chorion. The blood, which has circulated in the placenta, is returned into the veins of the uterus by the oblique openings in the decidua covering the placenta. The blood, which has circulated between the villousities of the chorion, passes through the openings in the decidua reflexa into the cavity between the two deciduous membranes, whence it is taken up by the numerous apertures and canals that exist, according to him, in the uterine decidua, and so passes into the veins of the uterus. Biancini<sup>b</sup> maintains, that a number of flexuous vessels connect the uterus directly with the placenta, which are developed immediately after the period of conception. These utero-placental vessels, he says, are not prolongations of the uterine vessels, but a new production. Recently, Dr. John Reid<sup>c</sup> has carefully examined into this point of anatomy. On separating the adhering surfaces of the uterus and placenta cautiously under water, he satisfied himself, but not without considerable difficulty, of the existence of the utero-placental vessels described by the Hunters. After a portion of the placenta had been detached in this manner, Dr. Reid's attention was attracted towards a number of rounded bands passing between the uterine surface of the placenta and the inner surface of the uterus, several of which could be drawn out in the form of tufts from the uterine sinuses. On slitting up some of the uterine sinuses with the scissors, these tufts could be seen ramifying in their interior. These were ascertained to be prolongations of the foetal placental vessels, and to protrude into certain of the uterine sinuses, and in those placed next the inner surface of the uterus only. These tufts were sur-

Fig. 321.



*Transverse Section of the Uterus and Placenta.*

*a* and *b*. Uterine sinuses with tufts of foetal placental vessels prolonged into them. *c*. Curling artery passing through decidua vera. *d*. Decidua vera. *e*. Tufts of placental vessels.—(J. Reid.)

rounded externally by a soft tube, similar to the soft wall of the utero-placental vessels, which passed between the margin of the open mouths of the uterine sinuses and the edges of the orifices in the decidua through which the tufts protruded into the sinuses. On examining the tufts, as they lay in the sinuses, it was evident, that though they were so far loose, and could be

floated about, yet they were bound down firmly at various points by reflections of the inner coat of the venous system of the mother upon their outer surface. Dr. Reid farther satisfied himself that the inte-

<sup>a</sup> London Med. Gazette, Dec. 1838; or Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, May, 1839, p. 189.

<sup>b</sup> Sul Commercio Sanguigno tra la Madre e il Feto. Pisa, 1833.

<sup>c</sup> Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal, Jan. 1841, p. 4.

rior of the placenta is composed of numerous trunks and branches, each including an artery, and an accompanying vein, every one of which, he believes, is closely ensheathed in prolongations of the inner coat of the vascular system of the mother, or at least in a membrane continuous with it. According to this idea of the structure of the placenta, the inner coat of the vascular system of the mother is prolonged over each individual tuft, so that when the blood of the mother flows into the placenta through the curling arteries of the uterus, it passes into a large sac formed by the inner coat of the vascular system of the mother, which is intersected in many thousands of different directions, by the placental tufts projecting into it like fringes, and pushing its thin wall before them in the form of sheaths, which closely envelope both the trunk and each individual branch composing these tufts. From this sac, the maternal blood is returned by the utero-placental veins without having been extravasated, or without having left the maternal system of vessels. Into this sac in the placenta, containing the blood of the mother, the tufts of the placenta hang like the branchial vessels of certain aquatic animals, to which they have a marked analogy. This sac is protected and strengthened on the foetal surface of the placenta by the chorion, on the uterine surface by the decidua vera, and on the edges or margin by the decidua reflexa. In this view, the foetal and maternal portions are every where intimately intermixed with tufts of minute placental vessels, their blunt extremities being found lying immediately under the chorion covering its foetal surface, as well as towards its uterine surface. The discovery of the prolongations of the foetal placental vessels into some of the uterine sinuses, Dr. Reid thinks, is principally valuable, as it presents us with a kind of miniature representation of the whole structure of the placenta; and the reason why the placental tufts are not perceptible on the uterine surface of the placenta expelled in an accouchement is, that they are so strongly bound down by the reflection of the inner coat of the uterine sinuses that they are torn across. Professors Alison, Allen Thomson, and J. Y. Simpson inspected the preparations of Dr. Reid, and expressed themselves satisfied that the placental tufts were prolonged into the uterine sinuses, and that the inner coat of the veins was prolonged upon them. Dr. Sharpey, too, confirms the views of Dr. Reid from his own observation of impregnated uteri; and Dr. Churchill states, that in a visit to Edinburgh, Dr. Reid showed him one of the portions of uterus and placenta on which his investigations were made, and there was no difficulty in demonstrating the tufts dipping into the uterine sinuses. "No doubt," he adds, "farther observations are necessary for the perfect elucidation of the subject;

Fig. 322.



Connexion between the Maternal and Fœtal Vessels.

a. Curling artery. b. Uterine vein. c. Placenta. d. Placental tufts with inner coat of vascular system of the mother enveloping them.—(J. Reid.)

\* The Theory and Practice of Midwifery, 2d Amer. edit., by Professor Huston, p. 110. Philad. 1846.

but I certainly think, that as far as our knowledge extends, it is in favour of the opinion adopted by Dr. Reid and the later physiologists."

A somewhat similar view to that of Dr. Reid is entertained by Prof. E. H. Weber.\*

Since Dr. Reid's observations were made, Mr. Goodsir,<sup>b</sup> has discovered on the foetal tufts villi like those of the intestinal canal, and internal cells on the tufts, which he considers to be precisely analogous to those of the intestinal villi, described in the first volume of this work. "Within the internal membrane," he remarks, "and on the external surface of the umbilical capillaries, are cells, which I have named the internal cells of the tuft. When the vessels are engorged, these cells are seen with difficulty. When the vessels are moderately distended, and the internal membrane separated from the external cells by moderate pressure, the cells now under consideration come into view. They are best seen in the spaces left between the internal membrane and the retiring angles formed by the coils or loops of the vessels, and in the vacant spaces formed by these loops. These cells are egg-shaped, highly transparent, and are defined by the instrument with difficulty; but their nuclei are easily perceived. They appear to be filled with a highly transparent refractive matter. This system of cells fills the whole space which intervenes between the internal membrane of the villus and the vessels; and gives to this part of the organ a mottled appearance."

The function of the external cells of the placental villi is, in Mr. Goodsir's view, to separate from the blood of the mother the matter destined for the blood of the foetus. "They are, therefore, secreting cells, and are the remains of the secreting mucous membrane of the uterus." The cells within the placental villi—the "internal cells" referred to above—belong to the system of the foetus. They are the cells of the villi of the chorion, and their function is to absorb "the matter secreted by the agency of the external cells of the villi." The placenta, consequently, in Mr. Goodsir's view, performs not only the function of a lung, but also that of an intestinal tube.

In whatever manner originally produced, the placenta is distinguishable in the second month, at the termination of which it covers two-thirds, or at the least, one-half of the ovum: after this, it increases in size, but far less rapidly than the ovum. Prior to the full term, however, it is said to be less heavy, more dense, and less vascular, owing—it has been conceived—to several of the vessels that formed it having become obliterated and converted into hard, fibrous filaments; a change, which has been regarded as a sign of maturity in the foetus, and a prelude to its birth. At the full period, its extent has been estimated at about one-fourth of that of the ovum; its diameter from six to nine inches; its circumference twenty-four inches; its thickness from an inch to an inch and a half at the centre, but less than this at the circumference; and its weight, with the umbilical cord and membranes, from twelve to twenty ounces. All this is

\* Hildebrandt's *Handbuch der Anatomie des Menschen*, iv. 496, Braunschweig, 1832; Wagner, *op. cit.* p. 201, and Dr. Reid, *op. cit.* p. 11. See, also, Mr. Dalrymple, *Medico-chirurg. Transactions*, vol. xxv., Lond., 1842; and Mr. F. Renaud, *Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal*, March, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Anatomical and Pathological Observations*, Edinburgh, 1845; and Ranking, *op. cit.*

subject, however, to much variation. It is of a circular shape, and the cord is usually inserted into its centre. It may be attached to

Fig. 323.

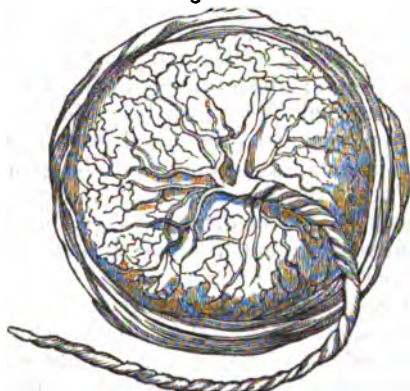


Uterine Surface of the Placenta.

by a soft and delicate celluloso-vascular membrane, which by many is considered to be the decidua vera.<sup>a</sup> Wrisberg,<sup>b</sup> Lobstein,<sup>c</sup> and Desormeaux,<sup>d</sup> however, who consider, that the decidua disappears from behind the placenta about the fourth or fifth month, regard it as a new membrane; and Bojanus, believing it to be produced at a later period than the decidua vera, gives it the name of *membrana decidua serotina*.<sup>e</sup> (See Fig. 308, page 452 of this volume.) Breschet, again, affirms, that two laminæ—*decidua vera* and *decidua reflexa*—are found intervening between the uterus and placenta,<sup>f</sup> whilst Velpéau maintains that the true decidua never exists there!

The *fœtal* or *umbilical surface* is smooth, polished, covered by the chorion and amnion, and exhibits the distribution of the umbilical vessels, and the mode in which the cord is attached to the organ.

Fig. 324.



Fœtal Surface of the Placenta.

The following are the anatomical constituents of the placenta, as usually described by anatomists. *First*. Blood-vessels from two sources,—the mother and the fœtus. The former proceed from the uterus, and consist of arteries and veins, of small size but considerable number. The vessels, which proceed from the fœtus, are those that constitute the umbilical cord;—viz. the umbilical vein, and the umbi-

<sup>a</sup> Burdach's Physiologie als Erfahrungswissensch. ii. 403.

<sup>b</sup> Observ. Anat. Obstetric. de Structurâ Ovi et Secundinar. Human., &c., Gotting. 1783.

<sup>c</sup> Essai sur la Nutrition du Fœtus, Strasbourg, 1802.

<sup>d</sup> Art. Œuf Humain, in Dict. de Médecine.

<sup>e</sup> Isis, von Oken, für 1821.

<sup>f</sup> Mémoir. de l'Académ. Royal. de Médec. tom. ii. Paris, 1833.

lical arteries. These vessels, after having penetrated the foetal surface of the placenta, divide in the substance of the organ, so that each lobe has an arterial and a venous branch, which ramify in it, but do not anastomose with the vessels of other lobes. *Secondly.* Expansions of the chorion, which are described by some as dividing into cellular sheaths, and accompanying the vessels to their final ramifications;—an arrangement which is, however, contested by others. *Thirdly.* White filaments, which are numerous in proportion to the advancement of pregnancy, and which seem to be obliterated vessels. *Fourthly.* A kind of intermediate cellular tissue, serving to unite the vessels together, and which has been regarded, by some anatomists, as an extension of the decidua accompanying those vessels. *Lastly.* A quantity of blood poured into this intermediate cellular tissue, which may be removed by washing. In addition to these constituents, a glandular structure has been presumed to exist in it; as well as lymphatic vessels.<sup>a</sup> Fohmann,<sup>b</sup> affirms, that the umbilical cord, in addition to the blood-vessels, consists solely of a plexus of absorbents, which may be readily injected with mercury. This has been done also by Dr. Montgomery, of Dublin. These lymphatics of the cord communicate with a network of lymphatics, seated between the placenta and the amnion, the termination of which Fohmann could not detect, but he thinks they pass to the uterine surface of the placenta. These vessels proceed to the umbilicus of the child, and chiefly unite with the subcutaneous lymphatics of the abdominal parietes; follow the superficial veins; pass under the crural arches; ramify on the iliac glands; and terminate in the thoracic duct. Lobstein and Meckel say that they have never been able to detect lymphatics in the cord.

Chaussier and Ribes,<sup>c</sup> and Mr. Cæsar Hawkins<sup>d</sup> describe nerves in the placenta, proceeding from the great sympathetic of the fœtus.

The uterine and the foetal portions of the placenta are generally described as quite distinct from each other, during the two first months of foetal life; but afterwards they constitute one mass. Still, the uterine vessels remain distinct from the foetal; the uterine arteries and veins communicating freely with each other, as well as the foetal arteries and veins; but no direct communication existing between the maternal and foetal vessels. Until of late, almost every obstetrical anatomist adopted the division of the placenta into two parts, constituting—as it were—two distinct placentæ,—the one maternal, the other foetal. Messrs. Lee, Radford, and others have, however, contested this point, and have affirmed, with Velpeau, that the human placenta is entirely foetal. The very fact, indeed, of the existence of a membrane, or—as M. Velpeau calls it—a “membranule,” between the placenta and the uterus, would destroy the idea of any direct adhesion between the placenta and uterus, and make the placenta wholly foetal. Yet the point is still contested,—by those especially, who con-

<sup>a</sup> Granville, op. citat. p. xix.

<sup>b</sup> Sur les Vaisseaux Absorbans du Placenta, &c. Liège, 1832; and Amer, Journ. May, 1835, p. 174.

<sup>c</sup> Journal Universel des Sciences Médicales, i. 233.

<sup>d</sup> Sir E. Home, Lect. on Comp. Anat. v. 185, Lond. 1828; Lond. Lancet, June, 1833; and Messrs. Mayo and Stanley, Report on the Preparations of Impregnated Uteri in the Hunterian Museum, Lancet, June 22, 1833.



sider that the maternal vessels ramify on one surface of the placenta, and the foetal on the other.\*

It is generally supposed, that the placenta is most frequently attached to the right side of the uterus, but Nägele<sup>b</sup> found the opposite to be the fact in his examinations. In six hundred cases, which he carefully auscultated, the placenta was found in two hundred and thirty-eight cases on the left side, and in one hundred and forty-one on the right.

5. *Umbilical cord*.—From the foetal surface of the placenta a cord of vessels passes, which enters the umbilicus of the foetus, and has hence received the name *umbilical cord*, as well as that of *navel string*. It forms the medium of communication between the foetus and the placenta. During the first month—Pockels<sup>c</sup> says the first three weeks—of foetal existence, the cord is not perceptible; the embryo appearing to be in contact, by the anterior part of its body, with the membranes of the ovum. Such, at least, is the description of most anatomists; but Velpeau<sup>d</sup> says it is erroneous. The youngest embryo he dissected had a cord. At from a fortnight to three weeks old, the length is three or four lines; and he thinks his examinations lead him to infer, that at every period of foetal development, the length of the cord is nearly equal to that of the body, if it do not exceed it a little.

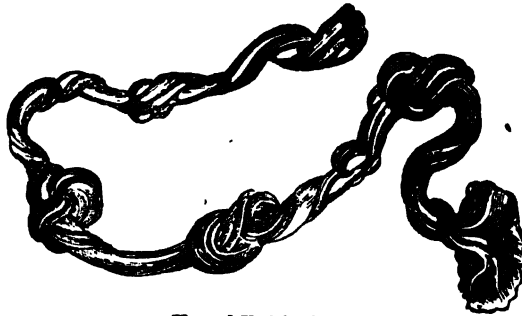
In an embryo a month old, Béclard<sup>e</sup> observed vessels creeping, for a certain space, between the membranes of the ovum, from the abdomen of the foetus to a part of the chorion, where the rudiments of the future placenta were visible. During the fifth week, the cord is straight, short, and very large, owing to its containing a portion of the intestinal canal.

It presents, also, three or four dilatations, separated by as many contracted portions or necks; but these gradually disappear; the cord lengthens, and becomes smaller, and occasionally it is twisted, knotted, and tuberculated in a strangely inexplicable manner. (Fig. 325.)

After the fifth week

it contains—besides the duct of the umbilical vesicle—the omphalomesenteric vessels, and a portion of the urachus, or of the allantoid, and of the intestines. At about two months, the digestive canal enters the abdomen; the urachus, the vitelline canal—to be mentioned

Fig. 325.



*Knotted Umbilical Cord.*

\* See Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 495, Braunschweig, 1832.

<sup>b</sup> Die Geburtshilfliche Auscultation, Mainz, 1838; cited in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1839, p. 371.

<sup>c</sup> Neue Beiträge zur Entwicklungsgeschichte des Menschlichen Embryo, in Isis, von Oken, 1825.

<sup>d</sup> Embryologie, ou Ovologie Humaine, Paris, 1833.

<sup>e</sup> Embryologie ou Essai Anatomique sur le Fœtus Humain, Paris, 1821.

presently—and the vessels become obliterated, so that, at three months, as at the full period, the umbilical cord is composed of three vessels,—the umbilical vein, and two arteries of the same name,—of a peculiar jelly-like substance, and it is surrounded, as we have seen, by the amnion and chorion. The vessels will be more particularly described hereafter. They are united by a cellular tissue, containing the *jelly of the cord*, or of *Wharton*, a thick albuminous secretion, which bears some resemblance to jelly, and the quantity of which is very variable. In the foetus, the cellular tissue is continuous with the sub-peritoneal cellular tissue; and in the placenta, it is considered to accompany the ramifications of the vessels. The length of the cord varies, at the full period, from eight inches to fifty-four. The most common length is eighteen inches.\*

It has been already remarked, that Chaussier, Ribes, and Hawkins have traced branches of the great sympathetic of the foetus as far as the placenta; and the same has been done by Durr,<sup>b</sup> Rieck,<sup>c</sup> and others.

6. *Umbilical vesicle*. — This vesicle, called also *vesicula alba* and *intestinal vesicle*, appears to have been first carefully observed by Albinus.<sup>d</sup>

Dr. Granville,<sup>e</sup> however, ascribes its discovery to Bojanus,<sup>f</sup> whilst others have assigned it

to Diemerbroeck.<sup>g</sup> It was unknown to the ancients; and, amongst the moderns, is not universally admitted to be a physiological condition.

\* Dr. Churchill, in Dublin Journal of Med. Science, March, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Dissert. Sistens Funicul. Umbilic. Nervis Carere, Tubing. 1815.

<sup>c</sup> Utrum Funiculus Umbilicalis Nervis polleat aut careat. Tubing. 1816.

<sup>d</sup> Annotat. Académic. lib. i. p. 74.

<sup>e</sup> Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, p. xii. Lond. 1834.

<sup>f</sup> Meckel's Archiv. iv. s. 34; and Journ. Complément du Dict. des Sciences Médicales, ii. 1818, p. 84.

<sup>g</sup> Opera, p. 304, Ultraject, 1672; see, also, Mackenzie in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal for January, 1836, p. 46. For a list of those who have described it, see Purkinje, in art. Ei, of Encyclopæd. Medicin. Wörterb. x. 156, Berlin, 1834; and Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatom. Band. iv.

Fig. 326.

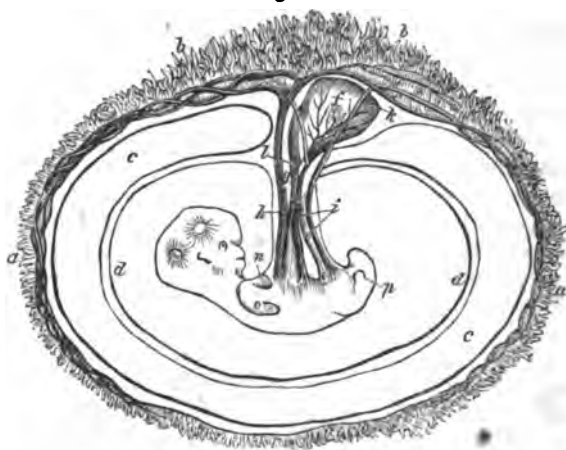


Diagram of Fœtus and Membranes about the sixth week.

a. Chorion. b. The larger absorbent extremities, the site of the placenta. c. Allantois. d. Amnion. e. Urachus. f. Bladder. g. Vesicula umbilicalis. h. Communicating canal between vesicula umbilicalis and intestine. i. Vena umbilicalis. ii. Arteria umbilicales. l. Vena omphalo-mesenterica. k. Arteria omphalo-mesenterica. n. Heart. o. Rudiment of superior extremity. p. Rudiment of lower extremity. —(Cærus.)

Osiander and Döllinger class it amongst imaginary organs; and Velpeau remarks, that out of about two hundred vesicles, which he had examined, in fœtuses under three months of developement, he had met with only thirty in which the umbilical vesicle was in a state, that could be called natural. Under such circumstances, it is not easy to understand how he distinguished the physiological from the pathological condition. If the existence of the vesicle be a part of the physiological or natural process, the majority of vesicles ought to be healthy or natural; yet he pronounces the thirty in the two hundred to be alone properly formed; and, of consequence, one hundred and seventy to be morbid or unnatural. This vesicle is described as a small pyriform, round or spheroidal sac; which, about the fifteenth or twentieth day after fecundation, is of the size of a common pea. It probably acquires its greatest dimensions in the course of the third or fourth week. After a month, Velpeau always found it smaller. About the fifth, sixth, or seventh week, it is about the size of a coriander seed. After this, it becomes shrivelled and disappears insensibly. It seems to be situate between the chorion and amnion, and is commonly adherent either to the outer surface of the amnion, or to the inner surface of the chorion, but, at times, is situate loosely between them. It is seen in Fig. 308 and Fig. 326.

The characters of the *vitelline pedicle*, as Velpeau terms it, which attaches the vesicle to the embryo, vary according to the stage of gestation. At the end of the first month, it is not less than two, nor more than six lines long, and about a quarter of a line broad. Where it joins the vesicle, it experiences an infundibuliform expansion. Its continuity with the intestinal canal appears to be undoubted.<sup>a</sup> Up to twenty or thirty days of embryonic life, the pedicle is hollow, and, in two subjects, M. Velpeau was able to press the contained fluid from the vesicle into the abdomen, without lacerating any part.<sup>b</sup> Generally, the canal does not exist longer than the expiration of the fifth week, and the obliteration appears to proceed from the umbilicus towards the vesicle. The parietes of the *vitelline pouch*—as M. Velpeau calls it, from its analogy to the vitelline or yolk-bag of the chick—are strong and resisting; somewhat thick, and difficult to tear.

As the umbilical vesicle of brutes has been admitted to be continuous with the intestinal canal, anatomists have assigned it and its pedicle three coats. Such is the view of Dutrochet. Velpeau has not been able to detect these in the human fœtus. He admits, however, a serous surface, and a mucous surface.

The vesicle is evidently supplied with arteries and veins, which are generally termed *omphalo-mesenteric* or *omphalo-meseraic*, but, by Velpeau, *vitello-mesenteric*, or, simply, *vitelline*. The common belief is, that they communicate with the superior mesenteric artery and vein; but Velpeau says he has remarked, that they inosculate with one of the branches of the second or third order of those great vessels (*canaux*),—with those, in particular, that are distributed to

<sup>a</sup> Purkinje, art. Ei, in. op. cit. x. 157.

<sup>b</sup> See, also, R. Wagner, Elements of Physiology, translated by Robert Willis, M. D., p. 194, Lond. 1841.

the cæcum. These vessels he considers to be the vessels of nutrition of the umbilical vesicle.

The fluid, contained in the vesicle, which Velpeau terms the *vitelline* fluid, has been compared, from analogy, to the *vitellus* or yolk of egg. In a favourable case for examination, Velpeau found it of a pale yellow colour; opaque; of the consistence of a thickish emulsion; different in every respect from serosity, to which Albinus, Boerhaave,<sup>a</sup> Wrisberg<sup>b</sup> and Lobstein<sup>c</sup> compared it, and from every other fluid in the organism; and he regards it as a nutritive substance—a sort of oil—in a great measure resembling that which constitutes the vitelline fluid of the chick *in ovo*.<sup>d</sup>

7. *Allantoid vesicle* or *allantois*.—This vesicle—called also *membrana farciminalis* and *membrana intestinalis*—has been alternately admitted and denied to be a part of the appendages of the human fœtus, from the earliest periods until the present day. It has been seen by Emmert, Meckel, Pockels, Velpeau, Von Baer, Burdach, and others.<sup>e</sup> It is situate between the chorion and amnion, and communicates, in animals, with the urinary bladder by a duct called *urachus*. It has been observed in the dog, sheep, cow, in the saurian and ophidian reptiles, birds, &c. M. Velpeau<sup>f</sup> was never able to detect any communication with the bladder in the human subject, and he is compelled to have recourse to analogy to infer, that any such channel in reality exists. From all his facts—which are not numerous or forcible—he “thinks himself authorized to say,” that from the fifth week after conception till the end of pregnancy, the chorion and amnion are separated by a transparent, colourless, or slightly greenish-yellow layer. This layer, instead of being a simple serosity, is lamellated, after the manner of the vitreous humour of the eye. It diminishes in thickness, in proportion to the developement of the other membranes. The quantity of fluid, which its meshes enclose, is, on the contrary, in an inverse ratio with the progress of gestation. Becoming gradually thinner, it is ultimately formed into a homogeneous and pulpy layer, by being transformed into a simple gelatinous or mucous layer (*enduit*), which wholly disappears, in many cases, before the period of accouchement. Between the *reticulated body*, as Velpeau terms it, and the allantoid of oviparous animals, he thinks, there is the greatest analogy. Yet the fluid of the allantoid is very different from the urine, which is supposed, by some, to exist in the allantoid of animals. This fluid, we shall find, has been considered inservient to the nutrition of the new being, but, after all, it must be admitted, that our ideas regarding the vesicle, in man, are far from being determinate.

8. *Erythroid vesicle*.—This vesicle was first described by Dr.

<sup>a</sup> Haller, *Elements Physiol.* viii. 208.

<sup>b</sup> *Descript. Anat. Embryonis*, Gotting. 1764.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. cit.* p. 42.

<sup>d</sup> See, on this and other topics of Embryology, Von Siebold's *Journal für Geburtshülfe*, xiv. Heft 3, Leipz. 1835; and *Brit. and For. Med. Review*, i. 241, Lond. 1836.

<sup>e</sup> Purkinje, art. *Ei*, in *Encyc. Wort. der Medicin. Wissensch.* xi. 151, Berlin, 1834.

<sup>f</sup> *Embryologie ou Ovologie Humaine*, Paris, 1833. See, also, Burdach, *die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, ii. 530; Weber's *Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie*, iv. 509, Braunschweig, 1832; and Meckel's *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Jourdan and Breschet's French translation, iii. 768, Paris, 1825.

Pockels, of Brunswick, as existing in the human subject. It had been before observed in the mammalia. According to Pockels,<sup>a</sup> it is pyriform; and much longer than, though of the same breadth as, the umbilical vessel. Within it, the intestines are formed. Velpeau, however, asserts, that he has never been able to meet with it; and he is disposed to think, that none of the embryos, depicted by Pockels, and by Seiler,<sup>b</sup> were in the natural state. Such, too, is the opinion of Weber,<sup>c</sup> and the vesicle is not noticed by the later embryologists.

According to most obstetrical physiologists, when pregnancy is multiple, the ova in the uterus are generally distinct, but contiguous to each other. By others, it has been affirmed, that two or more children may be contained in the same ovum, but this appears to require confirmation. The placenta of each child, in such multiple cases, may be distinct; or the different placentæ may be united into one, having intimate vascular communications with each other. At other times, in twin cases, but one placenta exists. This gives origin to two cords, and at others to one only, which afterwards bifurcates, and proceeds to both fœtuses. Maygrier,<sup>d</sup> however, affirms unconditionally, that there is always a placenta for each fœtus; but that it is not uncommon, in double pregnancies, to find the two placentæ united at their margins; the circulation of each fœtus being distinct, although the vessels may anastomose. This was the fact in a case of quadruple pregnancy, communicated by M. Capuron to the Académie Royale de Médecine, Jan. 10th, 1837.

b. *Development of the Ovum.*—Prior to the consideration of the development of the human ovum, it may be well to refer to the changes that the egg undergoes during incubation; in which we have an opportunity of observing the transmutations at all periods of fetal formation, independently of any connexion with either parent. The subject has engaged the attention of physiologists of all ages; but it is chiefly to those of more modern times—as Hunter, Cuvier, Dutrochet,<sup>e</sup> Pander,<sup>f</sup> Rolando, Sir Everard Home, Prévost and Dumas, Von Baer, Kuhlemann,<sup>g</sup> Döllinger, Oken,<sup>h</sup> Purkinje,<sup>i</sup> Rathke, C. F. Wolff, Breschet, Burdach, Reichert, Carus, Krause, Seiler, Bojanus, Meckel, E. H. Weber, Bernhardt, Valentin, Coste, Owen, Sharpey, Velpeau, Flourens, Allen Thomson, T. W. Jones, Bischoff, Schwann and Schleiden, J. Müller, Rudolph Wagner and Martin Barry, the two last of whom received, about the same time, medals for their researches, the former from the Institute of France, and the latter from the Royal Society of London—that we are indebted for more precise information on the subject; although, unfortunately, on many points there is great obscurity and discordance. The

<sup>a</sup> *Isis*, von Oken, p. 1342, 1825.

<sup>b</sup> *Das Ei und Die Gebärmutter, des Menschen*, u. s. w., p. 24, Dresd. 1832.

<sup>c</sup> Weber's *Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie*, iv. 518, Braunsch. 1832.

<sup>d</sup> *Nouvelles Demonstrations d'Accouchemens*, Paris, 1822-26.

<sup>e</sup> *Journal de Physique*, p. 88, for 1819.

<sup>f</sup> *Beiträge zur Entwicklungsgeschichte des Hühnchens im Ei*, Würzb. 1817.

<sup>g</sup> *Observ. quædam circa Negotium Generationis in ovibus fact.* Gotting. 1753.

<sup>h</sup> *Isis*, 1829, p. 407.

<sup>i</sup> *Symbolæ ad Ovi Avium Historiam ante Incubationem*, p. 16, Wratislav. 1825; and art. *Ei*, in *Encyclopæd. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft.* Band. x. 107, Berl. 1834.

investigations of Sir Everard Home, aided by those of the excellent microscopic observer, Mr. Bauer,\* are accompanied by engravings, some of which we shall borrow in elucidation of the following brief description.

The egg of a bird,—of a hen for example,—consists of two descriptions of parts:—those which are but little concerned in the development of the new being, and which remain after the chick is hatched,—as the shell and the membrane lining it,—and such as

Fig. 327.



Ovary of the living Hen; natural size. The Ova at different stages of increment.—(Sir E. Home.)

undergo changes along with those of the chick and co-operate in its formation,—as the white, the yolk, and the cicatrix or molecule. The shell is porous, to allow of the absorption of air through it; and of the evaporation of a part of the albumen or white. In the ovarium it is albuminous, but in the cloaca becomes calcareous. The membrane, *membrana testæ*, that lines the shell, is of a white colour, and consists of two layers, which separate from each other at the greater end of the egg, and leave a space filled with air, owing to the evaporation of the white and the absorption of air. This space is larger the older the egg, and is called the *folliculus aëris* or *air-chamber*.

The *albumen* or *white* does not exist whilst the egg is attached to the ovary. It is deposited between the yolk and the shell, as the egg passes through the oviduct. Of the white there are two distinct kinds;—the outermost, thin and fluid, which evaporates in part, and is less abundant in the old than in the fresh-laid egg, and another, situate within the last, which is much denser, and only touches the shell at the smaller extremity of the egg by a prolongation of its substance, which has been called the *ligament of the white*. The *yolk* or *yolk-ball*, *vitellus*, seems to be at first sight a semifluid mass without organization; but on closer examination, it is found to consist of a yolk-bag, two *epidermic* membranes, which envelope it as well as the cicatrix or molecule. Two prolongations of these membranes,

\* Sir E. Home's Lectures on Comp. Anat. iii. 427.

knotty, and terminating in a flocculent extremity in the albumen, called *chalazæ* or *poles*, are attached to the two ends of the egg and thus suspend it. It is also surrounded by a proper membrane; and lastly, under the epidermic coats of the yolk, and upon its proper coat, lies the *cicatricula*, *macula*, *tread of the cock*, or *gelatinous molecule* from which the future embryo is to be formed. It is found before the yolk leaves the ovarium.

The external membrane of the yolk, when it quits the yolk-bag, is very thin and delicate; its surface is studded over with red dots, which disappear in its passage along the oviduct. When this membrane is removed, there is a natural aperture in the thick, spongy covering under it, through which is seen the *cicatricula* or molecule, surrounded by an *areola*, *halo*, or *circulus*. On examination, this areola proves to be nothing more than that part of the surface of the yolk, which is circumscribed by the margin of the aperture.

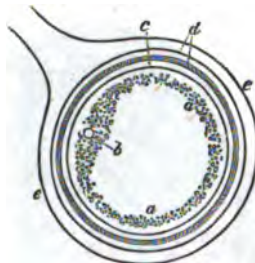
The molecule or *cicatricula* itself, (Fig. 328,) has a granulated appearance; and, according to Sir Everard Home,<sup>a</sup> is made up, in the centre, of globules  $\frac{1}{88000}$ th part of an inch in diameter, surrounded by circles of a mixed substance; about two-thirds consisting of the same small globules, and one-third of larger oval globules, about  $\frac{1}{18000}$ th part of an inch in diameter; the last resembling in shape the oval red globules of the blood of the bird. Besides the globules, there is some fine oil, which appears in drops, when the parts are immersed in water. Oval globules and oil are also met with in the yolk itself, but in small proportion and devoid of colour. If the ovum, according to Valentin,<sup>b</sup> be lacerated and its contents minutely examined, the *cicatricula* is found like a grayish white disk, which in its whole periphery is dense, granular, and opaque, but in the centre pre-

Fig. 328.



New-laid Egg with its Molecule, &amp;c.—(Sir E. Home.)

Fig. 329.



Section of a Hen's Egg within the Ovary.

a. Granular membrane forming periphery of yolk. b. Vesicle of Purkinje embedded in cumulus. c. Vitellary membrane. d. Inner and outer layers of capsule of ovum. e. Indusium of ovary.—(T. W. Jones.)

<sup>a</sup> Op. cit. iii. 426.

<sup>b</sup> Handbuch der Entwicklungsgeschichte des Menschen, u. s. w., Berlin, 1835; Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ., April, 1836, p. 393; and Bernhardt, Symbolæ ad ovi Mammalium Historiam ante Prægnationem. Wratisl. 1834. See, also, Dr. A. Thomson, art. Generation, in Cyclopæd. of Anatomy and Physiology, Feb. 1838, part xiii. p. 452; Burdach, Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, 2te Auflage, i. 67, Leipz. 1835; Mr. Thomas Wharton Jones, on the First Changes in the Ova of the Mammifera, in Philos. Transact., part ii. for 1837, p. 339; and Dr. Martin Barry, Philosoph. Transact., 1838, pp. 301, 341; 1839, p. 307, and 1839-40.

sents a clear non-granular, and perfectly diaphanous point. Purkinje found, that when he removed the dark granular mass by suction with a small tube, there remained a perfectly transparent vesicle, filled with a pellucid lymph, which had a decidedly spherical form, but, being extremely delicate, was very easily lacerated, and its fluid escaped. As he found this, which later naturalists have named—after its discoverer—the '*Purkinjean vesicle*,' in the ova of the ovary, but could not see it in ova, which had already entered the oviduct, he gave it the name "germinal vesicle." The granular membrane,—its thickened portion, the so-called cicatricula,—and the germinal vesicle, constitute those parts of the ovum, which pass immediately into the original foundation of the embryo, the *blastoderm*a or "germinal membrane."

When the egg leaves the ovarium, (Fig. 327.) the ovarian yolk-bag gives way at the median line, and the yolk drops into the commencement of the oviduct. The yolk-bags are exceedingly vascular, the outer membrane of the yolk being connected to them by vessels and fasciculi of fibres, but being readily separable from them. During the first hours of incubation no change is perceptible in the egg, but, about the seventh, the molecule is evidently enlarged, and a membrane, containing a fluid substance, is observable. This membrane is the *Amnion*, *Colliquamentum*, *Sacculus Colliquamenti*, *Nidus pulli*, *Areola pellucida Wolffii*, *transparent pellucid area*. At this time, a white line is perceptible in the molecule, which is the rudimental fœtus; and, even at this early period, according to Sir Everard Home,<sup>a</sup> the brain and spinal marrow can be detected. The areola

Fig. 330.



Egg thirty-six hours after Incubation.—  
(Sir E. Home.)

has extended itself; and the surface, beyond the line which formed its boundary, has acquired the consistence of a membrane, and has also a distinct line by which it is circumscribed. This Sir Everard calls the *outer areola*. In the space between these two areolæ are distinct dots of an oily matter.

In twelve hours the rudiments of the brain are more distinct, as well as those of the spinal marrow. A dark line or *primitive trace* or *streak* may now be discovered in the cicatricula towards the centre of the transparent area, lying in the transverse axis of the egg, and swollen at the extremity, which lies to the left when the smaller end of the egg is turned from us. The larger extremity indicates the place where the head is

afterwards formed, and occupies nearly the centre of the transparent area. As incubation proceeds, the whole cicatricula expands: to-

<sup>a</sup> Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, iii. 426.



wards the twelfth or fourteenth hour the germinal membrane divides into two layers of granules, the uppermost being entitled the *serous* or *animal layer*; the lower the *mucous* or *vegetative layer*,—the former being more extended than the latter. In a few hours later, the separation of the germinal membrane becomes more distinct, and between the serous and the mucous layers there appears a new layer, called the *vascular*. In one or other of the three primitive layers—serous, mucous, or vascular—is contained the germ of all the tissues and organs of the body, and it is conceived, that their histogeny admits of a distinct grouping. The serous layer, for example, is presumed to give origin to the organs of animal life—the brain, spinal marrow, the organs of the senses, the skin, muscles, tendons, ligaments, cartilages, and bones; from the mucous layer originate the organs of vegetative life—the intestinal canal, lungs, liver, spleen, pancreas, and other glands; and from the vascular layer the heart and vascular system are presumed to arise. It is not decided to which layer the reproductive system should be assigned. According to Dr. Barry,\* however, there does not occur in the mammiferous ovum any such phenomenon as the splitting of a germinal membrane into the “so-called *serous*, *vascular*, and *mucous* laminæ. Nor is there any structure entitled to be denominated a *germinal membrane*, for it is not a previously existing membrane, which originates the germ, but it is the previously existing germ which, by means of a hollow process, originates a structure having the appearance of a membrane.”

In thirty-six hours, the head is turned to the left side. The cerebrum and cerebellum appear to be distinct bodies. The iris is perceptible through the pupil. The intervertebral nerves are nearly formed; those nearest the head being the most distinct. A portion of the heart is seen. At this period, under the inner areola, apparently at the termination of the spinal marrow, a *vesicle* begins to protrude, which is seen earlier in some eggs than in others. The white of egg is found to be successively absorbed by the yolk, so that the latter is rendered more fluid and its mass augmented. The first appearance of red blood is discerned on the surface of the yolk-bag towards the end of the second day. A series of points is observed, which form grooves; and these closing constitute vessels, the trunks of which become connected with the chick. The vascular surface itself is called *figura venosa*, *area* or *area vasculosa*; and the vessel, by which its margin is defined, *vena terminalis*, and *circulus venosus*. The trunk of all the veins joins the *vena portæ*, whilst the arteries, that ramify on the yolk-bag, arise from the mesenteric artery of the chick, and have hence been called *omphalo-mesenteric*.

In two days and a half, the spinal marrow has its posterior part enclosed; the auricles and ventricles of the heart are perceptible, and the auricles are filled with red blood. An arterial trunk from the left ventricle gives off two large vessels,—one to the right side of the embryo, the other to the left,—sending branches over the whole of the areolar membrane, which is bounded on each side by a large trunk carrying red blood; but the branches of the two trunks do not

\* Op. cit.; and Wagner's *Elements of Physiology*, p. 153, (note,) London, 1841.

unite, there being a small space on one side, which renders the circle incomplete. This Sir Everard Home calls the *areolar circulation*.

In three days, the outer areola has extended itself over one-third of

Fig. 331.



Egg opened three days after Incubation.—  
(Sir E. Home.)

the circumference of the yolk, carrying the marginal arteries along with it to the outer edge, but diminished in size. The brain is much enlarged; the cerebellum being yet the larger of the two. The spinal marrow and its nerves are most distinctly formed; and the eye appears to want only the pigmentum nigrum. The right ventricle of the heart contains red blood; the arteries can be traced to the head; the rudiments of the wings and legs are formed, and the vesicle is farther enlarged, but its vessels do not carry red blood. It has forced its way through the external covering of the yolk, and opened a communication through this slit, by which a part of the albumen is admitted to mix itself with the yolk, and gives it a more oval form. At this period,

the embryo is generally found to have changed its position and to be wholly turned on the left side.

In four days, the vesicle is more enlarged, and more vascular, its vessels containing red blood. The optic nerve and pigmentum nigrum of the eye are visible. The outer areola extends half over the yolk, with which a larger portion of the white is now mixed.

In five days, the vesicle has acquired a great size and become exceedingly vascular; the yolk, too, has become thinner, in consequence of its admixture with more of the albumen.

In six days, the vascular membrane of the areola has extended farther over the yolk. The vesicle, at this time, has suddenly expanded itself in the form of a double nightcap over the yolk, and its coverings are beginning to enclose the embryo, the outermost layer being termed the *chorion*, the innermost the *middle membrane*. The amnion contains a fluid in which the embryo is suspended by the vessels of the vesicular membrane. The brain has become enlarged so as to equal in size the body of the embryo. Its vessels are distinctly seen. The two eyes equal the whole brain in size. The parietes of the thorax and abdomen have begun to form; and the wings and legs are nearly completed, as well as the bill. At this period muscular action has been noticed.

In seven days, the vesicle—having extended over the embryo—has begun to enclose the areolar covering of the yolk, and a pulsation is distinctly seen in the trunk that supplies the vesicular bag with blood. The pulsations were, in one case, seventy-nine in a minute, whilst the embryo was kept in a temperature of 105°; but when the tempe-

rature was diminished, they ceased, and when again raised to the same point, they were reproduced. The muscles of the limbs now move with vigour.

In eight days, the anastomosing branches of the vesicular circulation have a strong pulsation.

In nine days, the vesicle has nearly enclosed the yolk.

In ten days, no portion of the yolk is observable on the outside of the vesicle. The embryo being taken out of the amnion,—now become full of water,—the thorax is found to be completely formed, and the roots of the feathers very distinct.

Fig. 332.



*Egg five days after Incubation.*—(Sir E. Home.)

Fig. 333.



*Egg ten days after Incubation.*—(Sir E. Home.)

The contents of the egg, during the formation of the embryo, become much diminished in quantity, and the void space is gradually occupied by a gas, which was examined by Mr. Hatchett, and found to be atmospheric air deposited at the great end of the egg between the layers of the membrane lining the shell. Even prior to incubation, there is always a small portion of air in this place, which is supposed to be employed in aerating the blood, from the time of its first acquiring a red colour, till superseded in that office by the external air acting through the egg-shell upon the blood in the vessels of the vesicular membrane, with which it is lined.

Between the period of fourteen and eighteen days, the yolk becomes completely enclosed by the areolar membrane; and, at the expiration of the latter period, the greater part of the yolk is drawn into the body, as in Fig. 335. At twenty days, the chick is completely formed, the yolk is entirely drawn in, and only portions of the membrane belonging to the vesicle are seen externally. The yolk-bag has a narrow tube, *ductus vitellarius*, *ductus vitelli intestinalis* seu *apophysis*, half an inch long, connecting it with the intestine, eight inches above the openings of the cæca into the gut.

The whole of these changes, which, in the viviparous animal, are effected within the womb of the mother, take place in the incubated chick by virtue of its own powers; and without any assistance except that of the atmospheric air and of a certain degree

Fig. 334.

*Embryo of the Egg.*

Showing the opening in the abdomen, from which portions of the vesicular and areolar membranes and turns of the intestines are protruding. Magnified two diameters.—(Sir E. Home.)

Fig. 335.



Embryo eighteen days old. Half the natural size.—(Sir E. Home.)

of warmth. In the course of incubation, the yolk becomes constantly thinner and paler, by the admixture of the white: and, at the same time, innumerable fringe-like vessels, with flocculent extremities, of a singular structure, form on the inner surface of the yolk-bag, and hang into the yolk.

The office of these is presumed to be, to absorb the yolk and to convey it into the veins of the yolk-bag, where it is assimilated to the blood, and applied to the nutrition of the new being. Blumenbach states, that in numerous and varied microscopical examinations of the yolk-bag, in the latter weeks of incubation, he thinks he has observed the actual passage of the yolk from the yellow flocculent vessels of the inner surface of the bag into the blood-vessels which go to the chick. He has, at all events, seen manifest yellow streaks in the red blood contained in those veins. When the chick has escaped from the shell, the yolk, we have seen, is not exhausted, but is received into the abdomen, and as it communicates with the intestinal tube, it is, for some time, a source of supply to the young animal, until its strength is equal to the digestion of its appropriate food. The highly vascular chorion is manifestly an organ of aeration, like the placenta of the mammalia.\*

\* For a minute and recent account of the development of the chick *in ovo*, illustrated by numerous engravings, see R. Wagner, *Elem. of Physiology*, translated by R. Willis,

The developement of the mammalia greatly resembles that of the bird; and it is in the former, that the histogeny of the impregnated ovum, at the earliest periods of intra-uterine existence, has been studied. There can be no doubt, as Wagner has remarked,<sup>a</sup> that researches on the mammalia, carefully conducted and used with discretion, are much better calculated to throw light on the primary formation of the human embryo than any amount of necessarily unconnected observations on human ova cast off at an early period, and in the great majority of cases obviously diseased. In treating the whole of the subject, Wagner considers the developement of the chick to be the safest guide, and he consequently refers to it continually in his interesting description of the developement of the mammiferous ovum. In the higher oviparous animals, the germinal membrane absorbs the nutritious matter from the yolk, and prepares it for the use of the embryo itself, by converting it into blood; but after the yolk has been exhausted, the yolk-bag is taken into the body, and is gradually removed by absorption. In the mammalia, the quantity of yolk laid up for the nutrition of the embryo, is comparatively inconsiderable, and it is only required until the ovum has contracted a union with the uterus; after which the yolk-bag is separated from the embryo, and thrown off as useless. Still, as Dr. Carpenter<sup>b</sup> has remarked, "the early processes are the same in mammiferous as they are in oviparous animals; and the developement of man, of a bird, of a reptile, or of a fish, takes place, up to a certain point, upon the same general plan."

The human ovum certainly does not reach the uterus until towards the termination of a week after conception. On the seventh or eighth day, it has the appearance referred to in the case so often cited from Sir Everard Home; the future situations of the brain and the spinal marrow being recognisable with the aid of a powerful microscope. On the thirteenth or fourteenth day, according to Maygrier, the ovum is perceptible in the uterus, and of about the size of a pea,—according to Pockels, of a Spanish nut,<sup>c</sup> containing a turbid fluid, in the midst of which an opaque point is suspended, the *punctum saliens*.

Fig. 336.



Ovum fourteen days old.

Fig. 336 represents an ovum, which is figured by Velpeau, and could not have been more than fourteen days old, unless the midwife, who gave it to him, and who was herself the subject of the miscarriage, deceived him, and she appeared to have had no reason for so doing. Good descriptions and representations of the human ovum within the first month from conception are, however, as Wagner<sup>d</sup> has remarked, very scarce, and many of the accounts pertain to diseased ova, or to monstrous or distorted embryos thrown off by abor-

p. 80, Lond. 1841; also, Burdach, Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, 2te Band, 2te Auflage, Leipz. 1837; Towne, Guy's Hospital Reports, Oct. 1839, p. 385; and T. W. Jones, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Oct. 1843, p. 513.

<sup>a</sup> Op. cit.

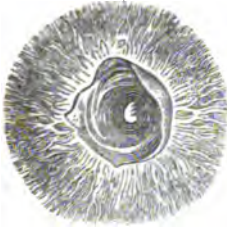
<sup>b</sup> Human Physiology, § 758. Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> Isis, von Oken, Dec. 1825; and Granville's Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, part vii. Lond. 1834.

<sup>d</sup> Elements of Physiology, translated by R. Willis, p. 161. Lond. 1841.



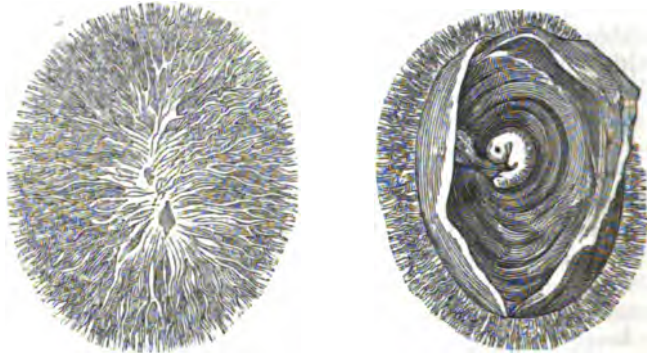
Fig. 337.



Ovum and Embryo, fifteen days old.—(Maygrier.)

tion. Its *weight* has been valued at about a grain;—*length* one-twelfth of an inch. On the twenty-first day, the embryo appears under the shape of a large ant, according to Aristotle; of a grain of lettuce; of a grain of barley, according to Burton; of the malleus of the ear, according to Baudelocque;—or one-tenth of an inch long, according to Pockels. At this period the different parts of the embryo have a little more consistence; and those that have afterwards to form bone assume the cartilaginous condition. On the thirtieth day, some feeble signs of the principal organs and of the situation of the upper limbs are visible;—*length* four or five lines.

Fig. 338.



Ovum and Embryo, twenty-one days old.—(Maygrier.)

About the forty-fifth day, the shape of the child is determinate; and it now, in the language of some anatomists, ceases to be the

Fig. 339.



Fœtus at forty-five days.

Fig. 340.



Fœtus at two months.

*embryo*, and becomes the *fœtus*. According to others, it does not become entitled to the latter name until after the beginning of the fourth month.\*

The limbs resemble tubercles, or the shoots of vegetables; the body lengthens, but preserves its oval shape, the head bearing a considerable proportion to the rest of the body. The base of the trunk is pointed and elongated. Blackish points, or lines, indicate the presence of the eyes, mouth, and nose; and similar, parallel points correspond to the situation of the vertebræ. *Length* ten lines.

\* Valentin, in art. Fœtus, Encyclopæd. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch. xii. 355. Berlin, 1835.

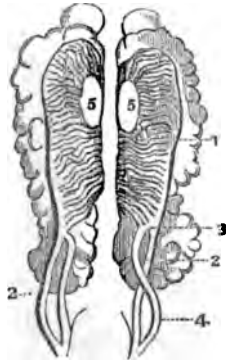
In the second month, most of the parts of the fœtus exist. The black points, which represented the eyes, enlarge in every dimension; the eyelids are sketched, and are extremely transparent; the nose begins to stand out; the mouth increases, and becomes open; the brain is soft and pulpy; the heart is largely developed, and opaque lines set out from it; which are the first traces of large vessels. Prior to this period—very early indeed—substances or bodies are perceptible, which were first described, as existing in the fowl, by Wolff,<sup>a</sup> and in the mammalia by Oken,<sup>b</sup> and which have been called by the Germans, after their discoverers, *Wolffische oder Oken'sche Körper*, ("bodies of Wolff or Oken.") According to J. Müller, they disappear in man very early, so that but slight remains of them are perceptible after the ninth or tenth week of pregnancy. They cover the region of the kidneys and renal capsules, which are formed afterwards, and they are presumed to be the organs of urinary secretion during the first periods of fœtal existence.<sup>c</sup> The fingers and toes are now distinct.

In the third month, the eyelids are more developed and firmly closed. A small hole is perceptible in the pavilion of the ear. The *alæ nasi* are distinguishable. The lips are very distinct, and approximate, so that the mouth is closed. The genital organs of both sexes undergo an extraordinary increase during this month. The penis is very long; the scrotum empty, frequently containing a little water. The vulva is very apparent, and the clitoris prominent. The brain, although still pulpy, is considerably developed, as well as the spinal marrow. The heart beats forcibly. The lungs are insignificant; the liver very large, but soft and pulpy, and appears to secrete scarcely any bile. The upper and lower limbs are developed. *Weight* two and a half ounces; *length* three and a half inches.

During the fourth month, all the parts acquire great advancement and character, except perhaps the head and the liver, which increase less in proportion than other parts. The brain and spinal marrow acquire greater consistence; the muscular system, which began to be observable in the preceding month, is now distinct; and slight, almost imperceptible, movements begin to manifest themselves. The *length* of the fœtus is, at the end of one hundred and twenty days, five or six inches; the *weight* four or five ounces.

During the fifth month, the development of every part goes on; but a distinction is manifest amongst them. The muscular system is

Fig. 341.



*Corpora Wolffiana, with Kidney and Testes, from Embryo of Birds.*

1. Kidney. 2. 2. Ureters. 3. Corpus Wolffianum. 4. Its excretory duct. 5. 5. Testicles. At the summit are seen the supra-renal capsules.

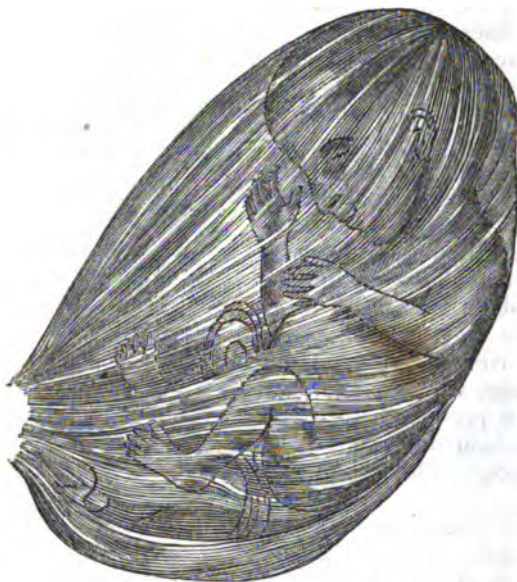
<sup>a</sup> *Theoria Generationis*. Hal. 1759.

<sup>b</sup> Oken und Kieser, *Beiträge zur Vergleichend. Zoologie, Anatomie und Physiologie*, H. i. p. 74, Bamberg und Würzburg, 1806; and Rathke, in *Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatom.* iv. 440.

<sup>c</sup> Valentin, *op. citat.* p. 380.

well marked, and the movements of the fœtus unequivocal. The head is still very large, compared with the rest of the body, and is

Fig. 342.



Fœtus at three months, in its membranes.

covered with small, silvery hairs. The eyelids are glued together. *Length* seven to nine inches; *weight* six or eight ounces. If the fœtus be born at the end of five months, it may live for a few minutes.

In the sixth month, the derma begins to be distinguished from the epidermis. The skin is delicate, smooth, and of a purple colour; especially on the face, lips, ears, palms of the hands and soles of the feet. It seems plaited, owing to the absence of fat in the subcutaneous cellular tissue. The scrotum is small,

and of a vivid red hue. The vulva is prominent, and its lips are separated by the projection of the clitoris. The nails appear, and towards the termination of the month are somewhat solid. Should the fœtus be born now, it is sufficiently developed to breathe and cry, but it dies in a few hours. *Length*, at six months, ten or twelve inches. *Weight* under two pounds.

During the seventh month all the parts are better proportioned. The head is directed towards the orifice of the uterus, and can be felt by the finger introduced into the vagina, but it is still very movable. The eyelids begin to separate, and the membrane, which previously closed the pupil—the *membrana pupillaris*—to disappear. The fat is more abundant, so that the form is more rotund. The skin is redder, and its sebaceous follicles are formed, which secrete a white, cheesy substance—the *vernix caseosa*—which covers it; and the testicles are in progress to the scrotum. The vernix has been recently analyzed by Dr. John Davy,<sup>a</sup> and found to consist of

Epithelium (epidermis) plates,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.25
Olein,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.75
Margarin,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.13
Water,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77.37

and in the very minute quantity of ashes, which remained, he found

<sup>a</sup> Medico-chirurgical Transactions, xxvii. p. 189. Lond. 1844.



traces of phosphate of lime and sulphur. It is consequently, an excretory secretion from the skin.

The *length* at seven months is fourteen inches; the *weight* under three pounds.

In the eighth month, the fœtus increases proportionably more in breadth than in length. All its parts are firmer and more formed. The nails exist; and the child is now certainly *viable* or capable of supporting an independent existence. The testicles descend into the scrotum; the bones of the skull, ribs, and limbs are more or less completely ossified. The *length* is sixteen inches; the *weight* four pounds and upwards.

At the full period of nine months, the organs have acquired the developement necessary for the continued existence of the infant. *Length* eighteen or twenty inches; *weight* six or seven pounds. According to Dr. Granville, *length* twenty-two inches; *weight* from five to eight pounds. Dr. Dewees\* says the result of his experience, in this country, makes the average weight above seven pounds. He has met with two ascertained cases of fifteen pounds, and several, which he believed to be of equal weight. Dr. Moore, of New York, had several cases, where the weight was twelve pounds; and a case occurred in that city in 1821, of a fœtus, born dead, which weighed sixteen and a half pounds. Dr. Traill† once weighed a child at the moment of birth: it weighed 14 pounds; Mr. Park, of Liverpool, found another to weigh 15 pounds; and a case has been recorded by Mr. J. D. Owens, in which a still-born child measured 24 inches in length, and weighed 17 pounds 12 ounces.‡ Dr. Storer,§ of Boston, has published the following results of observations. Of 30 children, 14 females weighed 112 pounds, or averaged 8 pounds each; and 16 males weighed 145½ pounds, or averaged 8½ pounds each. The largest child seen by Dr. Storer was a male, and weighed 13 pounds: the next in weight was 12½ pounds. One weighed 11, one 10½, and two 10 pounds each. Dr. Clarke¶ gave the absolute and relative weight of 60 of each sex, as observed at the Dublin Hospital:

60 males weighed 442 lbs.; average 7 lbs., 5 oz., 2 dr.

60 females weighed 404½ lbs.; average 6 lbs., 11 oz., 2 dr.

Average difference, 9 oz.

In the Edinburgh Lying-in Hospital, 50 male and 50 female children, born during the latter months of 1842, and the earlier part of 1843, were weighed by Dr. Simpson's assistant, Dr. Johnstone.¶

50 males weighed 383 lbs., 11 oz., 4 dr.; average 7 lbs., 9 oz., 1 dr.

50 females weighed 342 lbs., 12 oz., 4 dr.; average 6 lbs., 12 oz.

Average difference about 10 oz.

\* Compendious System of Midwifery, 8th edit. Philad. 1836.

† Outlines of a Course of Medical Jurisprudence, 2d edit. p. 16, Edinb. 1840, or American edition with notes by the author of this work, p. 27. Philad. 1841.

‡ London Lancet, Dec. 22, 1838.

§ New England Quarterly Journal of Medicine and Surgery, July, 1842.

¶ Philosophical Transactions, 1786.

¶ Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, Oct. 1844.

The lengths of these were :

50 males, total length, 1020½ inches ; average 20 inches, 5 lines.

50 females, total length, 990½ inches ; average 19 inches, 10 lines.

Average difference 7 lines, or upwards of half an inch.

Where there are twins in utero, the weight of each is usually less than in a uniparous case, but their united weight is greater. M. Dugès, of Paris, found that in 444 twins the average weight was four pounds, and the extreme weights three and eight pounds.

The whole of this description amounts to no more than an approximation to the general truth. The facts will be found to vary greatly in individual cases, and, therefore, according to individual experience; and this accounts for the great discordance in the statements of different observers.<sup>a</sup> This discordance is strongly exemplified in the following table, containing the estimates of the length and weight of the fœtus at different periods of intra-uterine existence, as deduced by Dr. Beck<sup>b</sup> from various observers, and as given by Maygrier<sup>c</sup> on his own authority, and by Dr. Granville<sup>d</sup> as the averages of minute and accurate observations made by Autenrieth, Sömmering, Bichat, Pockels, Carus, &c., confirmed by his own observations made on several early ova, and on many fœtuses examined in the course of seventeen years' obstetrical practice. It is proper to remark, that the Paris pound, *poids de marc*, of sixteen ounces, contains 9216 Paris grains ; whilst the avoirdupois contains only 8532·5 Paris grains ; and that the Paris inch is 1·065977 English inch.

	Length.			Weight.		
	Beck.	Maygrier.	Granville.	Beck.	Maygrier.	Granville.
At 30 days,	3 to 5 lines	10 to 12 lines				
2 months,	2 inches	4 inches	1 inch	2 ounces	9 or 10 grains	
3 do.	3½ do.	6 do.	3 inches	2 or 3 ounces	5 drachms	20 grains
4 do.	5 to 6 do.	8 do.		4 or 5 do.	2½ ounces	1½ ounce
5 do.	7 to 9	10 do.		7 or 8 do.	16 ounces	
6 do.	9 to 12	12 do.	9 inches	9 or 10 do.	2 pounds	1 pound
7 do.	12 to 14	14 do.	12 do.	1 to 2 pounds	3 do.	2 to 4 pounds
8 do.	16	16 do.	17 do.	2 to 3 do.	4 do.	3 to 4 pounds
				3 to 4 do.		4 to 5 do.

The difficulty must necessarily be great in making any accurate estimate during the early periods of fœtal existence ; and the changes in the after months are liable to considerable fluctuation. Chaussier affirms, that after the fifth month, the fœtus increases an inch every fifteen days, and Maygrier adopts his estimate. The former gentleman has published a table of the dimensions of the fœtus at the full period, deduced from an examination of more than fifteen thousand cases. From these we are aided in forming a judgment of the probable age of the fœtus in the latter months of utero-gestation ;—a point

<sup>a</sup> Burdach's *Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft*, Band ii. ; Valentin, art. *Fœtus*, in *Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch.* xii. 372, Berlin, 1835 ; and *Trattato Generale di Ostetricia*, di Dr. Asdrubali, 2da edizione, i. 152. Roma, 1812.

<sup>b</sup> *Medical Jurisprudence*, 6th edit. i. 276, Philad. 1838. See, also, Dr. W. A. Gay, *Principles of Forensic Medicine*, part i. p. 100. Philad. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> *Nouvelles Demonstrations d'Accouchemens*. Paris, 1822-26.

<sup>d</sup> *Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, &c.*, p. xi, Lond. 1834. See Seiler, art. *Embryo*, in *Anat. Phys. Real Wörterb.* ii. s. 530. Leipz. und Altenb. 1818.

of interest with the medico-legal inquirer. At the full period, the middle of the body corresponds exactly with the umbilicus, or a very little below it; at eight months, it is three-quarters of an inch, or an inch higher. At seven months it approaches still nearer the sternum; and at six months it falls exactly at the lower extremity of that bone; hence, if we depend upon these admeasurements, should the middle of the body of the fœtus be found to fall at the lower extremity of the sternum, we may be justified in concluding that the fœtus is under the seventh month, and consequently not *viable* or reearable.

The following are the results of some observations made by Mr. Taylor, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence at Guy's Hospital, and Dr. Geoghegan, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Case.	Whole length.	Attachment of the Umbilical Cord.
1	- 18½	- A quarter of an inch below the centre.
2	- 20	- Half an inch Do.
3	- 17½	- Half an inch nearly Do.
4	- 16½	- Half an inch Do.
5	- 19	- Do. Do.
6	- 17	- A little below the centre.
7	- 18	- Exactly at the centre.
8	- 17	- Do. Do.
9	- 20½	- A little below the centre.
10	- 19½	- Do. Do.
11	- 18½	- Exactly at the centre. <sup>a</sup>

A striking circumstance connected with the developement of the fœtus is the progressive diminution in proportion between the part of the body above the umbilicus and that below it. At a very early period of fœtal life, (see Figs. 339, and 340,) the cord is attached near the base of the trunk; but the parts beneath become gradually developed, until its insertion ultimately falls about the middle of the body.<sup>b</sup>

The following table of the length and weight (French), and central point of the fœtus at different ages is given by M. Lepelletier.<sup>c</sup> It still farther exhibits the discordance to which we have alluded above.

Month.	Length.	Weight.	Central point.
1	5 or 6 lines	9 to 15 grains	at the junction of the head and trunk.
2	18 to 20 lines	6 to 8 drachms	at the upper part of the sternum.
3	2 to 3 inches	2 or 3 ounces	at the upper extremity of the xiphoid cartilage.
4	5 to 6 inches	10 to 16 ounces	at the middle of the xiphoid cartilage.
5	7 to 9 inches	1 to 2 pounds	at the lower extremity of the xiphoid cartilage.
6	9 to 12 inches	2 to 3 pounds	several lines below the xiphoid cartilage.
7	12 to 15 inches	3 to 4 pounds	equidistant between the cartilage and the umbilicus.
8	15 to 18 inches	4 to 6 pounds	an inch above the umbilicus.
9	16 to 20 inches	6 to 8 pounds	at the umbilicus.
	<i>Extremes.</i>	<i>Extremes.</i>	
	12 to 15 inches (Millot.)	2 to 16 pounds (Voistel.)	

<sup>a</sup> T. R. Beck, Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, Oct. 1842, p. 489.

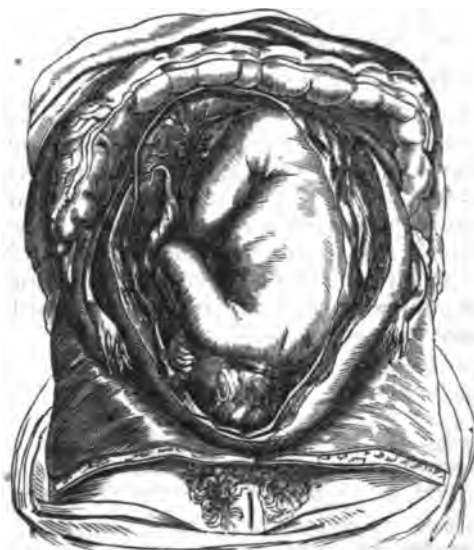
<sup>b</sup> See Carus, Lehrbuch der Gynäkologie, Th. ii. s. 29, Leipz. 1828.

<sup>c</sup> Physiologie Médicale et Philosophique, iv. 451, Paris, 1833.

The position of the foetus in utero, and the cause of such position at various periods of utero-gestation, have been topics of some interest. In the early weeks, it seems to be merely suspended by the cord; and it has been conceived, that because the head is heavy, it is the lowest part. It is difficult, however, to admit this as the cause of the position assumed in such an immense majority of cases, or to fancy, that the nice adaptation of the foetal position to the parts through which the child has to pass is simply dependent upon such a mechanical cause. Gravity can afford us no explanation of the fact, referred to under Parturition, that the face in 12,120 cases out of 12,533, has been found turned to the right sacro-iliac synchondrosis, and the occiput to the left acetabulum; and in the 63 of these cases in which the face was turned forwards, and in the 198 breech presentations, are we to presume, that the whole effect was owing to mere difference of weight in those parts that were lowest?

The common position of the foetus, at the full period, is exhibited in the next illustration. The body is bent forward, the chin resting

Fig. 343.



*Full period of Utero-Gestation.*

on the chest, the occiput towards the brim of the pelvis, the arms approximated in front, and one or both lying upon the face; the thighs bent upon the abdomen, the knees separated, the legs crossed, and drawn up, and the feet bent upon the anterior surface of the legs; so that the oval, which it thus forms, has been estimated at about ten inches in the long diameter; the head, at the full period, resting on the neck, and even on the mouth of the womb, and the breech corresponding to the fundus of the organ.

From the first moment of a fecundating copulation, the minute

matters furnished by both sexes, when commingled, commence the work of forming the embryo. For a short time they find in the ovum the necessary nutriment, and they subsequently obtain it from the uterus. The mode in which this action of formation is accomplished is as mysterious as the essence of generation itself. When the impregnated ovum is first seen, it seems to be an amorphous, gelatinous mass, in which no distinct organs are perceptible. In a short time, however, the brain and spinal marrow, and blood-vessels, make their appearance; but which of these is first developed is undecided.

Sir Everard Home,<sup>a</sup>—from his observations of the chick in ovo, as well as from the microscopic appearances, presented by the ovum in the case of the female who died on the seventh or eighth day after impregnation, in which a rudimental brain and spinal marrow were perceptible,—decides, that the parts first formed bear a resemblance to brain, and that the heart and arteries are produced in consequence of the formation of the nervous centres. Malpighi, Brera, Pander, Tiedemann, Prévost and Dumas, Velpeau, Rolando, and Schröder van der Kolk,<sup>b</sup> also assign the priority to the nervous system. Meckel, however, admits no primitive organizing element, but believes, that the first rudiments of the fœtus contain the basis of every part. On the other hand, the researches of Serres, on the mode of developement of the nervous system, have induced him to be in favour of the earlier appearance of the blood-vessels,<sup>c</sup> and this view appears to be supported by the fact, that if an artery of the brain be wanting, or double, the nervous part to which it is usually distributed is also wanting, or double. The acephalous fœtus has no carotid or vertebral arteries; whilst the bicephalous or tricephalous have those vessels double or treble. With these views Dr. Granville<sup>d</sup> accords, and he lays it down as a law, that the nerves invariably appear after the arteries which they are intended to accompany. A like discordance of ideas exists regarding the precedence in formation of the blood-vessels. The blood is clearly formed before the heart. It appears at distinct points from it, and acquires a motion independently of it. The veins are formed first; the heart next, and lastly the arteries. This is the view of the generality of physiologists;<sup>e</sup> but a distinguished Italian observer—Rolando—assigns the precedency to the arteries. Farther experiments are demanded on these interesting, but intricate points of organogenia.<sup>f</sup> Messrs. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire,<sup>g</sup> Meckel,<sup>h</sup> Serres,<sup>i</sup> Tiedemann,<sup>j</sup> and others are of opinion, that the developement of the embryo takes place from the sides towards the median line—from the circumference towards the centre; but Velpeau<sup>k</sup> considers that the median line is first formed.<sup>l</sup> The spinal marrow is the first portion of the nervous system which appears; and this system, he thinks, precedes every other.

Histogeny, or the developement of the different tissues, is a topic of deep interest to the student of general anatomy, and has engaged the attention of some of the most excellent anatomists of modern

<sup>a</sup> Lect. on Comp. Anat., iii. 292, and 429.

<sup>b</sup> Observationes Anatom. Pathol. et Pract. Argum., 8vo. Amstel. 1826; cited in Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, for April 1, 1836.

<sup>c</sup> See, also, Medici, in *Bulletino delle Scienze Mediche*, Dicembre, 1836, p. 389; and Richerand, *Nouveaux Elémens de Physiologie*, 13ème édit., par M. Bérard, aîné, § 206, Bruxelles, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> See Von Baer, *Ueber Entwicklungsgeschichte der Thiere*, u. s. w., Königsberg, 1837; also, Prof. R. J. Graves, in *Lond. Med. Gaz.* for June 30th, 1838, p. 591.

<sup>e</sup> Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit., iv. 353, Paris, 1829.

<sup>f</sup> *Philosophie Anatomique*, Paris, 1818–22. <sup>g</sup> *Handbuch der Anatomie*, Band. i.

<sup>h</sup> *Recherches d'Anatomie Transcendante*, &c., Paris, 1832.

<sup>i</sup> *Anatomie du Cerveau*, traduit par Jourdan, Paris, 1823.

<sup>j</sup> *Embryologie ou Ovologie Humaine*, Paris, 1833.

<sup>k</sup> See, also, H. Mayo's *Outlines of Physiology*, p. 385, Lond. 1833; and Granville, *Graphic Illustrations of Abortion*, p. xii., Lond. 1834.

times. Amongst these, Rolando, Tiedemann, Ackermann, Serres, Velpéau, Walther, Béclard, Rosenmüller, Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, Meckel, Burdach, Rudolph Wagner, Valentin, Bischoff, Schwann, Schleiden, Bidder, and Rathke, are especially conspicuous. The nature and limits of this work will preclude us, however, from entering into this investigation any farther than to point out some of the most striking peculiarities of foetal life.\* The fullest treatise on the subject is that of Burdach,<sup>b</sup> and one of the most recent that of Rudolph Wagner.<sup>c</sup>

c. *Peculiarities of the Fœtus*.—The head of the fœtus is large in proportion to the rest of the body, and the bones of the skull are united by membrane; the sagittal suture extends down to the nose, so as to divide the frontal bone into two portions; and where this suture unites with the coronal, a quadrangular space is left, filled up by membrane, which is called the *anterior fontanelle* or *bregma*. Where the posterior extremity of the sagittal suture joins the lambdoidal, a triangular space of a similar kind is left, called the *posterior fontanelle* or *posterior bregma*. It is important for the obstetrical practitioner to bear in mind the shape of these spaces, as they indicate to him whether the anterior or posterior part of the head is the presenting part. The pupil of the eye, in a very young fœtus, is entirely closed by a membrane, called *membrana pupillaris*, which arises from the inner margin of the iris, and continues there till the seventh month, when it gradually vanishes by absorption. It is a vascular substance, and, like the iris, to which it is attached, separates the two chambers of the eye from each other. Wachendorff<sup>d</sup> first described it in 1738; and both he and Wrisberg detected vessels in it. Its vascularity was denied by Bichat, but it has been satisfactorily demonstrated by J. Cloquet.<sup>e</sup> The membrane is manifestly connected with the process of formation of the delicate organ to which it is attached; and according to Blumenbach,<sup>f</sup> it keeps the iris expanded, during the rapid increase of the eyeball.

In the upper part of the thorax of the fœtus, a large gland, or rather glandiform ganglion exists, called the *thymus*, and by Joseph Frank, *corpus incomprehensibile*. It is situated in the superior mediastinum, and lies over the top of the pericardium and the arch of the aorta. It has two long cornua above, and two broad lobes below. Its appearance is glandular, and colour very variable. In the progress of age it diminishes, so that in the adult it is wasted, and in old age can scarcely be discovered amongst the cellular tissue. Krause<sup>g</sup>

\* Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 467, Braunschweig, 1832; Purkinje, art. Ei, Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicinisch. Wissensch., xi. 107, Berlin, 1834-5; Valentin, art. Fœtus, ibid. xii. 255, Berl. 1835. An abstract of the views of Serres, is given in Amer. Journal of the Medical Sciences, Feb. 1837, p. 473. See, also Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology, part i., Edinb. 1836; and Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1845, p. 589.

<sup>b</sup> Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, 2ter Band. 2te Auflage, Leipzig. 1837.

<sup>c</sup> Elements of Physiology, translated by Willis, Lond. 1841.

<sup>d</sup> Commerce. Litterar. Noric. 1740; and Valentin, art. Fœtus, Encycl. Wörterb. u. s. w., xii. 376.

<sup>e</sup> Mémoire sur la Membrane Pupillaire, Paris, 1817.

<sup>f</sup> Institut. Physiolog. § 262. See, also, Elliotson's translation, and Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 84.

<sup>g</sup> Müller's Archiv. Heft 1, 1837.

states, that he has found it in almost all individuals between twenty and thirty years of age, and very often larger than in young children. The common idea is, that the greatest bulk of the thymus is attained during the latter period of embryonic life; and that it must, consequently, exercise its chief functional activity during foetal existence, and have some reference to the peculiarities of foetal life. The observations of Krause, just referred to, do not sanction this idea; and the same may be said of those of Haugsted, who found, not merely the absolute, but the relative size of the gland undergo a great increase after birth. Thus, whilst the weight of a dog's thymus at birth may range up to ten grains, it may subsequently increase with such rapidity, that after five months it may weigh nearly four hundred,—a proportional increase of forty times, whilst the weight of the entire animal has increased only twelve or sixteen times. Mr. Simon, in his recent researches, agrees fully with Haugsted, and thence infers, that "the thymus can with no more propriety be referred to the needs and uses of foetal life than the mammæ of the female can be considered subservient to the period of utero-gestation."<sup>a</sup> The absolute increase of the gland appears to cease usually at about the age of two years.

The gland is surrounded by a thin, cellular capsule, which sends prolongations into its interior, and divides it into lobules of unequal size, in which several vesicles are distinguishable, filled with a milky fluid, the actual and ultimate nature of which is said to be expressed by the formula for protein. It is, in other words, highly nutrient. Sir Astley Cooper<sup>b</sup> states, that the lobules may be drawn out and separated from each other in the manner of a string of beads, when their enveloping capsule has been removed. The ordinary weight of the thymus has been estimated at half an ounce, but this is probably above the average. Dr. Roberts,<sup>c</sup> of New York, found the average weight in the full-grown fœtus to be 229 grains. The thymic arteries proceed from the inferior thyroid, internal mammary, bronchial, mediastinal, &c. The

Fig. 344.



Section of Thymus Gland at the Eighth Month.

1. Cervical portions of gland; independence of two lateral glands is well marked. 2. Secretory cells seen upon cut surface of section; these are observed in all parts of section. 3. Pores or openings of secretory cells and pouches; they are seen covering whole internal surface of great central cavity or reservoir. Continuity of reservoir in lower or thoracic portion of gland with cervical portion, is seen in the figure.—(Sir Astley Cooper.)

<sup>a</sup> A Physiological Essay on the Thymus Gland, by John Simon, F. R. S., Lond. 1845<sup>o</sup> noticed in Brit. and For. Med. Rev., July, 1845, p. 161; and Huschke, Encycl. Anat. traduit par Jourdan, v. 280, Paris, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> The Anatomy of the Thymus Gland, Amer. edit. p. 24. Philad. 1825.

<sup>c</sup> Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, Aug. 1837, Nov. 1838, and Oct. 1841; New York Journ. of Med. and Surg., Jan. 1840; and New York Med. Gaz., July 21, 1841. See, also, Dr. C. Lee, in Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, Jan. 1842, p. 138.

nerves proceed from the pneumogastric, diaphragmatic, and inferior cervical ganglia. It has no excretory duct; and is one of the most obscure, in its physiology, of any organ of the body, although, like the lymphatic glands, it is probably connected with the function of nutrition.<sup>a</sup>

The fluid of the thymus has the appearance of chyle or cream, and contains a large number of corpuscles, which are smaller than the blood corpuscles, globular and oval in form, irregular in outline, variable in size, and provided with a small central nucleus.<sup>b</sup> These have been long regarded as identical with the chyle and lymph globules. On treating the sliced thymus with ether, M. Renaud<sup>c</sup> found, that a considerable quantity of oleaginous matter was obtained from it; hence there is great resemblance between its composition, and that of chyle or milk.

The *thyroid gland*, which has been described in another place, and whose functions are equally obscure, is also largely developed in the foetus; as well as the *supra-renal capsules*.

The *lungs*, not having received air in respiration, are collapsed and dense, containing no more blood than is necessary for their nutrition. They are of a dark colour, like liver, and do not fill the cavity of the chest. Their specific gravity is greater than that of water, and consequently they sink in that fluid. On cutting into them, no air is emitted, and no hemorrhage follows. The *absolute weight*, however, of the lungs is less; no more blood, as we have seen, being sent to them than what is necessary for their nutriment; whilst, after respiration is established, the whole of the blood passes through them: the vessels are consequently filled with blood, enlarged, and the organs themselves increased in absolute weight. Ploucquet asserts, from experiments, that the mean weight of the lungs of a full-grown foetus, which never respired, is to that of the whole body, as 1 to 70; whilst, in those, in which respiration has been established, it is as 1 to 35; the absolute weight being thus doubled. These numbers cannot, however, be considered to afford a satisfactory average,—the exceptions being numerous; but they show that, as might be expected, the absolute weight is less, prior to the establishment of respiration. Careful and extended observations have satisfactorily shown, that although an increase in the weight of the lungs is generally found after respiration has been completely established, it is by no means the case when the inspirations have been feeble, as they often are for some hours and days after birth; and, on the other hand, it is not unusual to meet, in infants that have not breathed, with lungs as heavy as in the average of those that have respired.<sup>d</sup> The subject is one of great interest, connected with infanticide, and has been treated in a competent manner, by Dr. J. B. Beck, in Beck's *Elements of Medical Ju-*

<sup>a</sup> Gulliver, in Gerber's General Anatomy, p. 100, Lond. 1842. See, on all this subject, Simon, op. cit., Brit. and For. Med. Rev., loc. cit., or Ranking's Abstract, vol. i., pt. 1, p. 280, Amer. edit., New York, 1845.

<sup>b</sup> E. Wilson, System of Human Anatomy, 2d Amer. edit., p. 586, Philad. 1844.

<sup>c</sup> London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science, March, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Dr. Guy, Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., vol. lvi. and lvii.

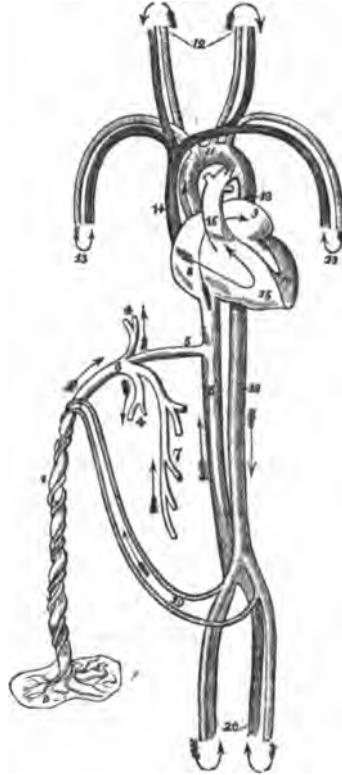


*risprudence*,—decidedly, in the author's opinion, one of the best medico-legal works in existence.\*

It is, however, in the circulatory system of the fœtus, that we meet with the most striking peculiarities. The heart is proportionably larger and more conical than in the adult. The *valve of Eustachius*—at the left side of the mouth of the inferior vena cava, where this vessel joins the sinus venosus,—is larger than at an after period, and is supposed to direct the principal part of the blood of that cava directly through the opening which exists between the right and left auricle. This opening, which is called the *foramen ovale* or *foramen of Botal*, is in the septum between the auricles, and is nearly equal in size to the mouth of the inferior cava. It is situate obliquely, and has a membrane, forming a distinct valve, and somewhat of a crescentic shape, which allows part of the blood of the right auricle to pass through the opening into the left auricle, but prevents its return.

The pulmonary artery, instead of bifurcating as in the adult, divides into three branches;—the right and left going to the lungs of the corresponding side, whilst the middle branch,—to which the name *ductus arteriosus* has been given,—opens directly into the aorta; so that a great part of the blood of the pulmonary artery passes directly into that vessel. From the

Fig. 345.



*Circulatory Organs of the Fœtus.*

1. Umbilical cord, consisting of umbilical vein and two umbilical arteries; proceeding from placenta (2). 3. Umbilical vein dividing into three branches; two (4, 4) to be distributed to liver; and one (5), ductus venosus, which enters inferior vena cava (6). 7. Portal vein returning blood from intestines, and uniting with right hepatic branch. 8. Right auricle; course of blood is denoted by arrow, proceeding from 8 to 9, left auricle. 10. Left ventricle; blood following arrow to arch of aorta (11), to be distributed through branches given off by arch to head and upper extremities. Arrows 12 and 13, represent return of blood from head and upper extremities through jugular and subclavian veins, to superior vena cava (14), to right auricle (8), and in course of arrow through right ventricle (15), to pulmonary artery (16). 17. Ductus arteriosus, which appears to be a proper continuation of pulmonary artery, the offsets at each side are right and left pulmonary artery cut off; these are of extremely small size as compared with ductus arteriosus. Ductus arteriosus joins descending aorta (18, 19), which divides into common iliacs, and these into internal iliacs, which become umbilical arteries (19), and return blood along umbilical cord to placenta; while other divisions, external iliacs (20), are continued into lower extremities. Arrows at termination of these vessels mark return of venous blood by veins to inferior cava.

\* See, also, J. B. Beck, *Researches in Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence*, New York, 1835.

internal iliac arteries, two considerable vessels arise, called the *umbilical arteries*. These mount by the sides of the bladder, on the outside of the peritoneum, and perforate the umbilicus in their progress to the umbilical cord and placenta. The *umbilical vein*, which is also a constituent of the cord, and conveys the blood from the placenta to the fœtus, arises from the substance of the placenta by a multitude of radicles, which unite together to form it. Its size is considerable. It enters the umbilicus, passes towards the inferior surface of the liver, and joins the left branch of the vena porta hepatica. Here a vessel arises called the *ductus venosus*, which opens into the vena cava inferior, or joins the left vena hepatica where that vein enters the cava. A part only of the blood of the umbilical vein goes directly to the vena cava; the remainder is distributed to the right and left lobes of the liver, especially to the latter.

The digestive apparatus exhibits few peculiarities. The bowels, at the full period, always contain a quantity of greenish, or deep black, viscid fæces, to which the term *meconium* has been applied, owing to their resemblance to the inspissated juice of the poppy (*μυκων*, "a poppy"). It appears to be a compound of the secretions from the intestinal canal and bile, and frequently contains down or fine hairs mixed with it. It has been recently analyzed by Dr. John Davy,<sup>a</sup> and found to contain—

Mucus and epithelium scales, . . . . .	23.6
Cholesterin (in plates) and margarin, . . . . .	.7
Colouring and sapid matter of bile, and olein, . . . . .	3.0
Water, . . . . .	72.7
	<hr/> 100.0

Its ashes also contained peroxide of iron and magnesia, with a trace of phosphate of lime and chloride of sodium. The liver is very large; so much so as to occupy both hypochondriac regions; and the right and left lobes are more nearly of a size than in the adult. Prior to birth it would seem to be the only decarbonizing organ; the lungs being inactive, but as soon as respiration is established, less blood is sent to the liver; and the diminution takes place with great rapidity, and is usually evidenced a short time after birth by the comparative paleness of its substance. Hence it has been supposed that the weight of the liver might aid in the determination of the question, whether a child had breathed or not. It has been shown, however, that although the liver, as a general rule, weighs less after respiration has been established, it by no means exists when the inspiration has been feeble for hours or days after birth; and, on the other hand, it is not uncommon to meet, in infants that have not breathed, with livers as light as in the average of those that have.<sup>b</sup>

The urinary bladder is of an elongated shape, and extends almost to the umbilicus. The muscular coat is somewhat thicker and more irritable than in the adult, and it continues to possess more power during youth. The common trick of the schoolboy—of sending the

<sup>a</sup> Medico-chirurgical Transactions, xxvii., 189, Lond., 1844.

<sup>b</sup> Guy, op. cit.; and Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 661, Lond. 1842.

jet over his head—is generally impracticable in more advanced life. From the fundus of the bladder, a ligament of a conical shape, called the *urachus*, ascends between the umbilical arteries to the umbilicus; becoming confounded in this place with the abdominal aponeuroses, according to Bichat, and forming a kind of suspensory ligament to the bladder. It is sometimes found hollow in the human fœtus, but such a formation Bichat considers to be preternatural. In the fœtal quadruped, it is a large canal, which transmits urine to the *allantois*, of which, as well as of other fœtal peculiarities, we have previously treated.

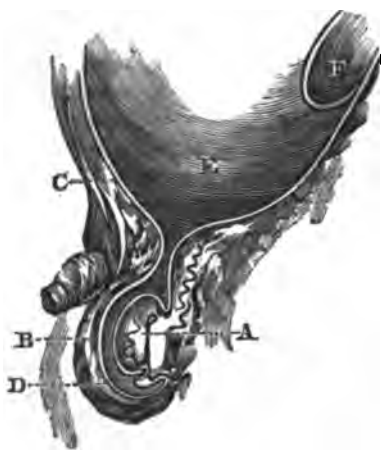
Lastly, the genital organs require some notice. The successive developement of this part of the system has given rise to some singular views regarding the cause of the sex of the fœtus. During the first few weeks, the organs are not perceptible; but, about the termination of the fifth week, a small, cleft eminence appears, which is the rudiment of the scrotum or the vulva, according to the sex. In the sixth week, an aperture is perceptible, common to the anus and genital organs, in front of which is a projecting tubercle. In the seventh and eighth weeks, this tubercle seems to be tipped by a glans, and grooved beneath by a channel which extends to the anus. In the eleventh and twelfth weeks, the perineum is formed and separates the anus from the genital organs. In the fourteenth week, the sex is distinct; but there still remains, for some time, a groove beneath the clitoris or penis, which becomes closed in the former, and is made into a canal in the latter. The striking similarity between the male and female organs has led Tiedemann\* to conclude, that the female sex is the male arrested at an inferior point of organization. In his view, every embryo is originally female; the cleft, described above, being the vulva—the tubercle, the clitoris: to constitute the male sex, the cleft is united so as to form a raphe, the labia majora are joined to form the scrotum, the nymphæ to form the urethra, and the clitoris is transformed into a penis. In support of this opinion, Tiedemann asserts, that the lowest species of animals are almost all females; and that all the young acephali and aborted fœtuses, which have been examined, are of that sex. Others, again, assert, that the sexes are originally neuter, and that the future sex is determined by accidental circumstances, during the first week of fœtal life; whilst Velpeau is disposed to believe, that they are all male; the infrapubic prolongation existing in every embryo, although there may be neither labia majora nor scrotum. But admitting that the embryo belongs to either the one or the other sex, or is neutral, we must still remain at a loss regarding the influences that occasion the subsequent mutations; and it seems impossible not to admit, that although an apparent sexual identity may exist amongst different embryos, there must be an impulse seated somewhere, which gives occasion to the sex being ultimately male or female, as it causes the young being to resemble one or other parent in its outward form, or internal configuration; and if our means of observation were adequate to the purpose, a distribution of arteries or nerves might probably be detected, which

\* Anatomie der Kopfloren Missgeburten, p. 54, Landshut, 1813.

could satisfactorily account, *ab initio*, for the resulting sex. In the absence of such positive data, Geoffroy St. Hilaire has suggested, that the difference of sex may be owing to the distribution of the two branches of the spermatic artery. If they continue in approximation, proceeding together,—the one to the testicle, the other to the epididymis,—the individual is male; if they separate,—the one going to the ovary, the other to the cornu of the uterus,—the individual is female. The degree of predominance of the cerebro-spinal system, he thinks, determines the approximation or separation of the two arterial branches. This predominance being greater in the male, the spermatic arteries are more feeble, and consequently in greater proximity; and conversely in the female.\*

Leaving these phantasies of the generalizing anatomists on a subject regarding which we must, probably, ever remain in the dark,

Fig. 346.



Descent of the Testicle.

A. Testicle in scrotum. B. Prolongation of peritoneum. C. Peritoneum lining abdomen. D. Peritoneum forming tunica vaginalis. E. Cavity of peritoneum. F. Kidney.

let us inquire into the phenomena of the *descent of the testes* in the *fœtus*. In the early months of *fœtal* life, the testicle is an abdominal viscus, being seated below the kidney. About the middle of the third month of *utero-gestation*, it is about two lines long, and is situate behind the peritoneum, which is reflected over its ventral surface. At this time, a sheath of peritoneum may be observed, passing from the abdominal ring to the lower part of the testicle, and containing a ligament called *gubernaculum testis*, which is considered to be formed of elastic cellular tissue, proceeding from the upper part of the scrotum, and from the part of the general aponeurosis of the thigh near the

ring, and of some muscular fibres coming from the internal oblique and transversalis muscles.

The head of the *fœtus* in *utero* being the lowest part, the testis has necessarily to ascend into the scrotum, and consequently some force must be exerted upon it. This is supposed to be effected by the contraction of the *gubernaculum testis*, yet it does not contain any fibrous structure, until after the descent of the testis has commenced. About the seventh month, the testes are in progress towards the scrotum, and have attained the inner ring. In this descent, the organ abandons successively one portion of the peritoneum to pass behind another

\* Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 375; J. Müller, *Bildungsgeschichte der Genitalien*, Berlin, 1830; E. H. Weber's *Hildebrandt's Anatomie*, iv. 446; Valentin, art. *Fœtus*, *Encycl. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissensch.* xii. 381, Berlin, 1835; Coste, *Annales d'Anatomie et de Physiologie*, tom. ii., No. ii., Mars, 1838; and *London Medical Gazette*, May 12, 1838, p. 304.

immediately below, until the lowest part of the pouch, formed by the peritoneum, around the testicle, as in Fig. 346, becomes the tunica vaginalis testis; whilst the portion of peritoneum, that descended before the testicle, becomes, when the testicle has fully descended, the second coat or tunica vaginalis.

As soon as the testicle has reached the lower part of the scrotum, the neck of the pouch approaches a closure, and this is commonly effected at birth. Sometimes, however, it remains open for a time, the intestines pass down, and congenital hernia is thus induced.\*

The testes have not always descended into the scrotum at birth, even at the full period; of 97 new-born infants, Wrisberg found both testes in the scrotum in 67: one or both in the canal in 17; one testis in the abdomen in 8; and both testes were in the cavity of the abdomen in 3. Sometimes, as has been remarked elsewhere, one or both testes remain through life in the abdomen, a condition which is natural in the ram.<sup>b</sup>

## 2. PHYSIOLOGY OF THE FŒTUS.

In investigating this interesting point of human physiology, we shall inquire into the functions, in the order we have adopted respecting the functions of the adult. On many of the topics that will have to engage attention, the deepest obscurity rests; whilst the hypotheses indulged regarding them have been of the most fanciful and mystical character.

a. *Animal Functions.*—The *external senses* in general are manifestly not in exercise during foetal life: of this there can be no doubt, as regards the *sense of sight*; and the same thing probably applies to the *taste*, *smell*, and *hearing*. With regard to *tact*, however, we have the best reason for believing, that it exists, particularly towards the latter periods of utero-gestation. The cold hand, applied over the abdomen of the mother, will instantly elicit the motions of the child. The brain and nervous system of the foetus must, therefore, have undergone the development necessary for the reception of the impression made through the medium of the mother; to convey such impression to the percipient organ, and to accomplish perception.

The existence of most of the *internal sensations* or *wants* would of course be supererogatory in the foetal state, where the functions, to which they minister after birth, are themselves wanting. It is probable, that there is no digestion except of the mucous secretions of the tube; no excretion of fæces or urine, and certainly there is no pulmonary respiration. It is not unlikely, however, that internal impressions, originating in the very tissue of the organs, may be communicated to, and appreciated by, the brain. We have strong reason for believing,

\* See Oesterreicher, *De Gubernaculo s. d. Hunteriano*, 1828; and *Neue Darstellung der Lehre der Ortsveränderung der Hoden*, 1830; also, Rathke, *Abhandlungen zur Bildungs- und Entwicklungsgeschichte des Menschen*, u. s. w., Th. i., 1832—cited by Valentin, art. *Fœtus*, in *Encyclop. Wörterbuch der Medicin. Wissenschaft*, xii. 381, Berlin, 1835; and J. B. Curling, on the Structure of the Gubernaculum and on the Descent of the Testis, in *London Lancet*, April 10, 1841, p. 70; and in *Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Testes*, &c., p. 32, Lond. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Comment. Soc. Reg. Scient. Gotting.* 1778; and Curling, *op. cit.* p. 66.

that pain may be experienced by the fœtus; for if it be destroyed by any sudden influence in the latter periods of pregnancy, death will generally be preceded by irregular movements which are manifest to the mother, and frequently lead her to anticipate the result. Adelon asks, whether it may not be affected, under such circumstances, with convulsions, similar to those that animals experience when they die suddenly, especially from hemorrhage? It is impossible to reply to this question, but that the child suffers appears evident.

The most elevated of the functions of relation—the *mental and moral faculties*—would seem to be needless to the fœtus; and consequently can be little, if at all, exercised. Bichat and Adelon,\* considering that its existence is purely vegetative, are of opinion that they are not exerted at all. Cabanis,<sup>b</sup> however, suggests, that imperfect essays may, at this early period, be made by virtue of the same instinct that impels animals to exercise their organs prior to the period at which they are able to derive service from them; as in the case of the bird, which will shake its wings before they are covered with feathers, and when yet incapable of bearing them. It is difficult to deny to the fœtus *all* intellectual and moral manifestations. They must doubtless be obscurely rudimental; still, we may conceive that some may exist, if we admit that the brain is in a state for the perception of impressions, that tact is practicable, and instinct in full activity. We find, moreover,—that the power of *motion*, voluntary as well as involuntary, exists certainly after the fifth month, and probably much earlier, could it be appreciated. During the latter months of utero-gestation, the motion of the fœtus appears to be almost incessant, and can be distinctly felt by placing the hand upon the abdomen. At times, indeed, it is manifest to the sight. The cause of these movements is by no means clear. It is probable, that they are instituted for the purpose of inducing a change in the position, which may have become irksome, and for assuming another; for we have already remarked, that the fœtus readily appreciates any sudden succussion given to it through the mother,—hence that it possesses tact, and, as we can readily understand, may experience fatigue from the maintenance of an inconvenient posture. This impression is conveyed to the brain, which sends the nervous influence to the appropriate muscles, and the position is changed. All this proves, that the cerebral functions are exerted, but for a few definite objects only.

The function of *expression* is of course almost, if not entirely, null in the fœtus. There are cases upon record, where children are said to have cried in utero, so as to be heard distinctly, not only by the mother, but by those around her. Indeed, the objection, that an infant may respire before it is born, and yet not come into the world alive,—in which case there will be buoyancy and dilatation of the lungs,—has been brought forward against the *docimasia pulmonum* or *lung-proof* of infanticide. We would not be understood as believing these cases to be mere fabrications, or the phenomenon impossible,—except, indeed, whilst the membranes are in a state of integrity.

\* *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 420, Paris, 1829.

<sup>b</sup> *Rapport du Physique et du Moral de l'Homme*, Paris, 1802.

When they have given way, and the child's mouth presents towards the os uteri, breathing and the *vagitus* may be practicable and may have occurred; but very positive and unexceptionable testimony is required to establish such an astounding event.<sup>a</sup>

b. *Functions of Nutrition.*—These functions are not as numerous in the fœtus as they are in the adult. Their object is, however, the same;—the formation of the various parts of the organized machine, and their constant decomposition and renovation.

One of the least tenable hypotheses, that have been entertained regarding the embryo at its first formation, is—that, for the first month—and why the period is thus limited is not apparent—the vitality of the fœtus is not independent, but is a part,—an offset, as it were,—of that of the mother; that it has no separate powers of existence; no faculty of self-evolution; and that its organs are nourished by the plastic materials, which it incessantly derives from the maternal blood.<sup>b</sup> It appears manifest, that from the very moment of the union of the materials furnished by both sexes at a fecundating copulation, the elements of the new being must exist; and it must possess, within itself, the faculty of self-evolution; otherwise, how can we understand the phenomena that take place in the ovarium after fecundation? It is admitted that this last organ furnishes the unfecundated ovum; and that the sperm must come in contact with this ovum; after which, fecundation is accomplished, and immediately the ovum undergoes a farther developement; escapes, in due time, from the viscus in which it was formed; is laid hold of by the Fallopian tube; passes through that canal, and is deposited in the interior of the uterus, with which it ultimately contracts adhesions. But all this requires time. The ovum does not probably reach the uterus, in the human female, until the end of a week or a fortnight; and some time must still elapse before such adhesions are effected; and, consequently, before any thing like maternal blood, whence the plastic materials are derived, according to the view in question, could be sent to it. During the whole of this time, the embryo doubtless derives its nourishment from the nutritious matters with which it is surrounded in the ovum itself, in the same manner as the young of the oviparous animal obtains the nutriment necessary for its full developement, during incubation, from the matters surrounding it; in which case the supply of fresh plastic materials, derived from the maternal blood, is obviously impossible.<sup>c</sup> But, in due time, after it has attained the interior of the uterus, it is compelled to absorb appropriate nutriment from the mother; the minute quantity existing in the ovum, at this early period, being totally insufficient for the developement which the fœtus is destined to attain. In this last respect, the human ovum differs from the eggs of oviparous birds, which are hatched out of the body, and contain sufficient nutriment for full fœtal evolution. In treating of this subject, Dr. Granville has the following remarks—"What stronger

<sup>a</sup> A case of this kind is given by Dr. Collins, in his *Practical Treatise on Midwifery*, &c. Lond. 1835: see, also, Beck's *Medical Jurisprudence*, 6th edit. Philadelphia, 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Geddings, art. *Acephalous*, *Amer. Cycl. of Pract. Medicine*, F. ii. p. 142, Philadelphia, 1833.

<sup>c</sup> Granville's *Graphic Illustrations of Abortion*, p. vii., London, 1834.

proof need be required of the existence of an adherent life principle in the ovulum, which is, at one time at least, indeed, I suspect throughout the period of gestation, independent of any connexion with the parent mother? Yet none of the earlier writers who adopted the ovarian theory of generation have ever asked themselves this question—what supports the vitality of a fecundated ovulum after it has left the ovarium, and previously to its becoming connected with the womb? In fact, the subject had never been mooted, before the more modern physiologists took it up and satisfactorily explained it:—and he adds in a note:—“the whole of the English physiologists, writers on midwifery and lecturers, whether ancient or modern, are entirely silent on this important stage of embryonic life.” It is a topic, however, discussed at length in the first edition of this work, and much expanded in the subsequent edition.\*

Since the time of Hippocrates, Aristotle, and Galen, different anatomists and physiologists have asserted, that the umbilical vein is the only channel through which nutriment reaches the fœtus, or, in other words, that the whole of the nourishment which the fœtus receives is from the placenta; but the facts, to which allusion has already been made, are sufficient to overturn this hypothesis. It is impossible that the placenta can have any agency until it is *in esse*. Such an explanation of the process of fœtal nutrition could only hold good after the first periods, and then, as we shall see, it is sufficiently doubtful. Accordingly, some of the most distinguished of modern physiologists, who have devoted their attention to embryology, have completely abandoned the idea of placental agency during the first months; and they, who have invoked it at all, have usually done so, as regards the after periods only. On all this subject, however, we have the greatest diversity of views. Lobstein,<sup>b</sup> for example, affirms, that the venous radicles of the rudimental placenta obtain nutritive fluids from the mother during the first days only, until the period when the arteries are formed; but that, after this, all circulation between the uterus and placenta ceases, and the fluid of the umbilical vesicle, the liquor amnii, and the jelly of the cord, are the materials of nutrition. Meckel<sup>c</sup> thinks the placenta is never the source of nutritive materials. He regards it as an organ for the vivification of the blood of the fœtus, analogous to the organ of respiration in the adult; and nutrition is, in his opinion, accomplished by the matter of the umbilical vesicle in the beginning, by the liquor amnii until midterm, and by the jelly of the cord until the end. According to Bécclard,<sup>d</sup> nutrition is effected during the first weeks, by the fluid of the umbilical vesicle; afterwards by the liquor amnii, and the jelly of the cord; and as soon as the ovum becomes villous, and develops the placenta, by that organ. Dr. Montgomery<sup>e</sup> has described several “decidual cotyledons,” as he terms them, which are best seen about the second or third month, and are not to be found at the advanced period of gesta-

\* Human Physiology, 1st edit. ii. 365, Philad. 1832, and 2d edit. ii. 413, Philad. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Essai sur la Nutrition du Fœtus. Strasbourg, 1802.

<sup>c</sup> Handbuch, u. s. w., Jourdan and Breschet's French translation, iii. 784.

<sup>d</sup> Embryologie, ou Essai Anatomique sur le Fœtus Humain. Paris, 1821.

<sup>e</sup> Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, p. 133. Lond. 1837.



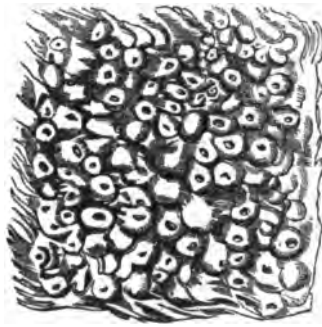
tion. These are small cup-like elevations on the external surface of the decidua vera, having the appearance of little bags, the bottoms of which are attached to or embedded in its substance; they then expand a little, and again grow smaller towards their outer or uterine end, which, in by far the greater number of them, is an open mouth when separated from the uterus: how it may be when adherent he does not profess to say, nor does he offer any decided opinion as to their precise nature or uses; but from having on more than one occasion observed within their cavity a milky or chylous fluid, he is disposed to consider them reservoirs for nutrient fluids separated from the maternal blood to be thence absorbed for the support and developement of the ovum.

"This view," says Dr. Montgomery, "seems strengthened when we consider, that at the early periods of gestation, the ovum derives all its support by imbibition, through the connexion existing between the decidua and the villous processes covering the outer surface of the chorion." Adelon<sup>a</sup> is of opinion, that two sources of nutrition ought alone to be admitted,—the umbilical vesicle, which is the sole agent for nearly two months, and the placenta for the remainder of the period. M. Velpeau<sup>b</sup> equally thinks, that the nutriment of the ovum is derived from different sources at different periods of intra-uterine existence.

The embryo, he says, is at first but a vegetable, imbibing the surrounding humours. The villi of its circumference, which are true cellular *spongioles*, obtain nutritive principles in the Fallopian tube and the uterus, to keep up the developement of the vesicles of the embryo; after which the new being is nourished like the chick in *ovo*, or rather like the plantule, which is, at first, altogether developed at the expense of principles enclosed in its cotyledons. It gradually exhausts the vitelline substance contained in the umbilical vesicle. The emulsive substance of the reticulated sac of the allantoid pouch is also gradually absorbed. The end of the second month arrives; the vessels of the cord are formed, and the placenta is developed; by its contact with the uterus, this organ obtains reparatory materials, elaborates them, and forms from them a fluid more or less analogous to blood, and this fluid is absorbed by the radicles of the umbilical vein.

We find, consequently, some of the most distinguished physiologists of the age denying—as it would seem that every one ought to deny

Fig. 347.



Decidua Cotyledons.—(Montgomery.)

<sup>a</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 397. Paris, 1829.

<sup>b</sup> *Embryologie ou Ovologie*, &c., Paris, 1833; and *Traité Élémentaire de l'Art des Accouchemens*, Professor Meigs's translation, 2d edit. p. 213, Philad. 1838. See, also, Broussais, *Traité de Physiologie*, &c., translation of Drs. Bell and La Roche, 3d Amer. edit. p. 535. Philad. 1832.

—that the nutrition of the fœtus takes place solely by means of blood sent by the mother to the fœtus. If we search into the evidence afforded us by transcendental anatomy, we find that amidst the various singular monstrosities met with, there would appear to be but one thing absolutely necessary for fœtal developement,—an absorbing surface, surrounded by a nutritive substance capable of being absorbed. Head, heart,—every thing, in short, except organic nervous system, vessels, and cellular tissue,—may be wanting, and yet the fœtus may grow so as to attain its ordinary dimensions. We have the most incontestable evidence, that neither the placenta nor umbilical cord is indispensably necessary for fœtal developement. Adelon disposes of this in the most summary manner, by affirming, that “there is no authentic instance of a fœtus, devoid of umbilical cord and placenta, attaining full uterine growth.” The case is not, however, got rid of so easily. The marsupial animals breed their young without either placenta or cord. The embryos are enclosed in one or more membranes, which are not attached to the coats of the uterus, and are supplied with nourishment from a gelatinous matter by which they are surrounded. Thomas Bartholin, during his travels in Italy, saw an individual, forty years old, who was born without anus, penis, or umbilicus; and M. Velpeau cites similar cases from Ruysch, Samson, Chatton, Rommeil, Denys, Fatio, V. Geuns, Sue, Penchienati, Franzio, Desgranges, Kluyskens, Pinel, Mason, Osiander, Dietrich, Von Froriep, and Voisin; but as these cases militate against his views of embryotrophy, he attempts to diminish their force by affirming, that the observations, which he had made, satisfy him, that all the fœtuses thus born had died in utero, in consequence of the destruction of the cord, or the closure of the umbilicus; or else, that the umbilicus existed, but was hidden or lost in the extroversion of the bladder almost always remarked in those that lived. Passing by the singular deduction of M. Velpeau, that his observations have satisfied him of the incorrectness of observations made by men, many of whom have long since left the stage,—long before he existed,—as well as the facts relating to the marsupial animal, and that the fœtus, in extra-uterine pregnancies, has frequently no placenta,—with the case cited by Dr. Good, from Hoffmann, of a fœtus born in good health and vigour, with the funis sphacelated and divided into two parts; and one by Stalpart Van der Wiel,<sup>a</sup> of a living child, exhibited without any umbilicus as a public curiosity,—a case, observed by Dr. Good<sup>b</sup> himself, appears to us to be unanswerable. The case in question occurred in 1791. The labour was natural; the child, scarcely less than the ordinary size, was born alive; cried feebly once or twice after birth, and died in about ten minutes. The organization, both internal and external, was imperfect in many parts. There was no sexual character whatever; neither penis nor pudendum; nor any internal organ of generation. There was no anus, no rectum, no funis, no umbilicus. The minutest

<sup>a</sup> *Observat. Rar. Med. Chirurg. cent. ii. p. 1, Obs. 32.*

<sup>b</sup> *Case of Preternatural Fœtation with Observations, read before the Medical Society of London, Oct. 20, 1794; and Study of Medicine, in Physiological Proem to Class v. Genetics.*

investigation could not discover the least trace of any. With the use of a little force, a small, shrivelled placenta,—or rather the rudiment of a placenta,—followed soon after the birth of the child, without a funis or umbilical vessels of any kind, or any other appendage by which it appeared to have been attached to the child. In a quarter of an hour afterwards, a second living child was protruded into the vagina and delivered with ease, being a perfect boy, attached to its placenta by a proper funis. The body of the first child was dissected in the presence of Dr. Drake of Hadleigh, and of Mr. Anderson of Sunbury, to both of whom Dr. Good appeals for the correctness of his statement. In the stomach, a liquor was found resembling the liquor amnii. How could nutrition have been effected, then, in this case? Certainly not by blood sent from the mother to the child, for no apparatus for its conveyance was discoverable; and are we not driven to the necessity of supposing, that the food must have been obtained from the fluid within the ovum? This case,—with the arguments already adduced,—seems to constrain us to admit, that the liquor amnii may have more agency in the nutrition of the new being than is generally granted. Professor Monro,\* amongst other reasons,—all of which are of a negative character,—for his disbelief in this function of the liquor amnii, asserts, that if the office of the placenta be not that of affording food to the embryo, it becomes those, who maintain the contrary doctrine, to determine what other office can be allotted to it, and that till this is done, it is more consistent with reason to doubt the few and unsatisfactory cases, at the time brought forward, than to possess ourselves with facts directly contradictory of each other. The case given by Dr. Good, since Professor Monro's remarks were published, is so unanswerable, and so unquestionable, that it affords a positive fact, of full or nearly full fœtal developement, independently of placenta and umbilical cord; and the fact must remain, although our ignorance of the functions of the placenta be "dark as Erebus."

The following case, with which the author was obligingly favoured by his friend, Dr. Wright, of Baltimore, has an instructive bearing upon the subject. The condition of the placenta was such as to lead that intelligent observer to conclude, that any circulation between the mother and the fœtus, through the placenta, was impracticable.

\* Baltimore, September 26th, 1835.

"DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request, I offer you the following plain and short statement of a case, which occurred in my practice, at the date indicated.

"On the 6th of December, 1833, I was requested to visit Mrs. T——, of this city,—a young woman of large form, good constitution, and generally excellent health. She had been married about fifteen months, and I was now called to attend her first labour. She had felt occasional labour pains through the day, and was delivered of a fine, vigorous female infant, in about four hours from the time of my call. The labour was, in all respects, natural, and as easy as is common—or consistent—with a first parturition. After the birth of the child, an hour, perhaps, was passed in waiting for secondary pains to effect the expulsion or favour the removal of the placenta, but no movement of this kind having then occurred, a gentle examination was made to ascertain whether that body might be easily and properly taken away. The vagina contained nothing more than the funis,—the outlet of the uterus was open, soft and extensible. The cord was

\* Edinburgh Medical Essays, ii. 102.

gently followed into the uterine cavity, and the cake found near its fundus, retaining a close connexion with the uterus. The placental mass was large and firm, presenting to the touch a peculiar feeling—as of a dense sponge, full of coarse, granular or gravelly particles. Deeming it now proper to relieve the patient fully, a cautious effort was made to detach the placenta from the uterus, in order to its manual extraction. In pursuing this design, it was found, that the adhering surface of the former consisted of a uniform calcareous lamina or plate, rough to the finger, and exciting such a sensation or feeling as would be caused by a sheet of coarse sand-paper. When the mass was detached, and brought away, the laminar surface, just referred to, was found to be a calcareous plate, uniformly covering the whole of the attached portion of the cake,—the entire surface of the utero-placental connexion. The calcareous matter, thus distributed, was thin, and readily friable, but, as before remarked, it appeared to constitute a uniform and superficial covering. The correspondent uterine surface—the part from which the placenta had been separated—felt rough, but comparatively soft, imparting nothing distinctly of the calcareous or gritty feel. Out of the body, the placenta felt heavy, and eminently rough throughout. When compressed or rubbed together, the large amount of nodular or granular matter, dispersed through its substance, was not only manifest to the touch, but a very audible crepitation or grating sound could be thus elicited from any and every part of the mass.

“In this uncommon instance of placental degeneracy, both the mother and child were perfectly healthy and well. The latter, indeed, was remarkable for its fine size, perfect nutrition and vigour. From the condition of the cake, and the character of its adhesion to the uterus, I apprehended a more than ordinary liability to secondary affection, in the form of puerperal fever,—and whether influenced or not by the circumstances detailed, secondary fever did ensue on the third day from delivery, attended by the usual signs of puerperal hysteritis, which affection, however, was happily subdued by general and topical bleeding, calomel, &c.

“With sincere regard, yours,

“T. H. WAGNET.

“PROFESSOR DUNGLISON.

“P. S.—The child, referred to, is living, and, from its birth to the present, has considerably exceeded the common bulk of children at the same age. The mother is now far advanced in her second pregnancy.”<sup>a</sup>

Since this letter was written, the same lady has been delivered of another healthy child. The maternal surface of the placenta was of the same calcareous character, but the deposition was not to the same extent as in the first pregnancy. A similar case has been described by Mr. Gilbert, of Beaminster, England.<sup>b</sup>

Amongst those physiologists who admit the liquor amnii to be a fluid destined for foetal nutrition, a difference prevails regarding the mode in which it is received into the system. Osiander,<sup>c</sup> Brugmans,<sup>d</sup> Van den Bosch, Fohmann, Carus,<sup>e</sup> and others, think that it is absorbed through the skin. In the foetal state the cuticle is extremely thin, and, until within a month or two of the full period, can be scarcely said to exist. There is consequently not that impediment to cutaneous absorption which, we have seen, exists in the adult. The strong argument, however, which they offer in favour of such absorption is the fact, that the foetus has been developed, although devoid of both mouth and umbilical cord; and Professor Monro, in opposing this function ascribed to the liquor amnii, refers to cases of monstrous formation, in which no mouth existed, nor any kind of passage leading to the stomach. Others, as Haller<sup>f</sup> and Darwin,<sup>g</sup> are of opinion

<sup>a</sup> See an analogous case by Madame Buisson Dautheix, in *Gaz. Méd. de Paris*, Juillet, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> *Lancet*, for Dec. 16, 1837, p. 418.

<sup>c</sup> *Handbuch der Entbindungskunde*, tom. i., p. 237.

<sup>d</sup> *De Naturâ et Utilitate Liqueoris Amnii*, Ultraject. 1792.

<sup>e</sup> *Lehrbuch der Gynäkologie*, Th. ii., s. 27, Leipzig. 1828.

<sup>f</sup> *Elementa Physiologie*, viii. 205.

<sup>g</sup> *Zoonomis*, vol. i., London, 1796. See Meckel's *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Jourdan and Breschet's translation, iii. 784, Paris, 1825.

that the fluid enters the mouth and is sent on into the stomach and intestines; and in support of this view they affirm, that the liquor amnii has been found in these viscera;—that it has been shown to exist in the stomach and pharynx. Heister, on opening a gravid cow, which had perished from cold, found the liquor amnii frozen, and a continuous mass of ice extending to the stomach of the fœtus.\*

The physiologists who believe that the liquor amnii is received into the stomach, differ as to what happens to it in that organ. Some suppose that it is simply absorbed without undergoing digestion; others, that it must first be subjected to that process. According to the former opinion, it is simply necessary that the fluid should come in contact with the mucous membrane of the alimentary passages; and they affirm, that if digestion occurs at all, it can only be during the latter months. Others, however, conceive that the waters are swallowed or sucked in, and that they undergo true digestion. In evidence of this they adduce the fact of meconium existing at an early period in the intestinal canal, which they look upon as evidence that the digestive function is in action; and, in farther proof of this, they affirm, that on opening the abdomen of a new-born infant the chyloferous vessels were found filled with chyle, which could not, they say, have been formed from any other substance than the liquor amnii; and lastly, that fine silky down has been found in the meconium, similar to that which exists on the skin of the fœtus, and which is conceived to have entered the mouth along with the liquor amnii. These reasons have their weight, but they cannot explain the development in the cases above alluded to, in which there was no mouth; and of course they cannot apply to the acephalous fœtus. Moreover, it has been properly remarked, that the presence of meconium in the intestinal canal—admitting that it is the product of digestion, which is denied by many—merely proves that digestion has taken place, and the same may be said of the chyle in the chyloferous vessels: neither one nor the other is a positive evidence of the digestion of the liquor amnii. Both might have proceeded from the stomachal secretions. It has also been affirmed, that meconium exists in the intestines of the acephalous fœtus; and in those in which the mouth is imperforate. Lastly, with regard to the down discovered in the meconium, it has been suggested as possible that it may be formed by the mucous membrane of the intestine, which so strongly resembles the skin in structure and functions.

Others have supposed that the liquor amnii is received through the respiratory passages, from the circumstance, that, in certain cases, the fluid has been found in the trachea and bronchia; some presuming, that it readily and spontaneously enters at the nostrils and passes to the trachea and bronchia; others, that it is forced in by the pressure of the uterus; and others, again, that it is introduced by the respiratory movements of the fœtus. Views have differed in this case, also, regarding the action exerted upon it after introduction; some presuming that it is absorbed immediately; others, that it is inservient to a kind of respiration; and that, during fœtal existence, we

\* Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, iv. 389, Paris, 1829.

are aquatic animals,—consuming the oxygen or atmospheric air, which Scheele,<sup>a</sup> Lassaigne,<sup>b</sup> and others have stated to exist in the fluid. It is scarcely necessary to oppose seriously these gratuitous speculations. The whole arrangement of the vascular system of the fœtus, so different from that which is subsequently established, and the great diversity in the lungs, prior and subsequent to respiration, would be sufficient to refute the idea, had it even been shown, that the liquor amnii always contains one or other of these gases, which is by no means the fact. The case of the acephalous fœtus is also an obstacle to this view as strong as to that of the digestion of the liquor amnii.

As if to confirm the remark of Cicero—"nihil tam absurdum, quod non dictum sit ab aliquo philosophorum,"—it has been advanced by two individuals of no mean pretensions in science, that the liquor amnii may be absorbed by the genital organs or by the mammæ. Lobstein<sup>c</sup> supports the former view; Oken<sup>d</sup> the latter. Oken asserts, that the fluid is laid hold of by the mammæ, is elaborated by them, and conveyed from thence into the thymus gland, the thoracic duct, and the vascular system of the fœtus. Hence, the necessity of both sexes possessing nipples before birth!

Of these various opinions, the one that assigns the introduction of the fluid to the agency of the cutaneous absorbents appears to carry with it the greatest probability. It must be admitted, however, that the whole subject is environed with obscurity, and requires fresh, repeated, and accurate experiments and observations to enlighten us.

But it may now be asked, with Monro, what are the nutritive functions performed by the placenta? We have before alluded to the different views, entertained regarding the connexion between the placenta and the uterus. Formerly, it was universally maintained, that vessels pass between the mother and the maternal side of the placenta, and that others pass between the fœtus and the fœtal side, but that the two sides are so distinct, as to justify their being regarded as two placentæ,—the one maternal, the other fœtal,—simply united to each other. At one time, again, it was supposed, that a direct communication exists between the maternal and fœtal vessels, but this notion has long been exploded. We have decisive evidence, that the connexion is of the most indirect nature. Wrisberg made several experiments, which showed that the circulatory apparatus of the fœtus is not drained when the mother dies from hemorrhage. It has been affirmed, too, that if the uterine arteries be injected, the matter of the injection passes into the uterine veins, after having been effused into the lobes of the placenta. If, on the other hand, the injection be thrown into the umbilical arteries, the matter passes

<sup>a</sup> De Liquoris Amnii Utilitate, Copenhag. 1795. <sup>b</sup> Archiv. Général. de Méd. ii. 308.

<sup>c</sup> Essai sur la Nutrition du Fœtus, p. 102, Strasbourg, 1802.

<sup>d</sup> Zeugung, p. 162, Bamberg, 1805.

<sup>e</sup> Hedenus, in art. Brust (weibliche,) Encyclopæd. Wörterb. der Medicinisch. Wissenschaft. vi. 351, Berlin, 1831. See, especially, on the whole subject of fœtal nutrition, Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de édit. iv. 383, Paris, 1829; and Meckel's Handbuch, u. s. w., Jourdan's French translation, iii. 781; or Doane's English translation from the French, Philad. 1832.

into the umbilical vein, and is effused into the placenta, but does not pass into the uterine vessels. When, however, an odorous substance, like camphor, is injected into the maternal veins of an animal, the foetal blood ultimately assumes a camphorated odour, and when animals have been fed on madder during gestation, the colouring matter has been found in the foetus;<sup>a</sup> also when the human female has taken rhubarb, evidence of it has been found in the liquor amnii, in the serum of the blood of the umbilical vessels, and in the first urine of the infant.<sup>b</sup> Magendie<sup>c</sup> injected this substance into the veins of a gravid bitch, and extracted a foetus from the uterus at the expiration of three or four minutes: the blood did not exhibit the slightest odour of camphor; whilst that of a second foetus, extracted at the end of a quarter of an hour, had a decidedly camphorated smell. This was the case, also, with the other foetuses. Such communication may, however, have been owing to the same kind of transudation and imbibition, of which we have spoken under the head of Absorption, and may consequently be regarded as entirely adventitious; and the fact of the length of time, required for the detection of the odorous substance favours this idea; for if any direct communication existed between the mother and the foetus, the transmission ought certainly to be effected more speedily. The transmission of substances from the foetal to the maternal placenta is still more difficult. Magendie was never able to affect the mother by poisons injected into the umbilical arteries and directed towards the placenta; and he remarks, in confirmation of the results of the experiments of Wrisberg, that if the mother dies of hemorrhage, the vessels of the foetus remain filled with blood. They who consider, that there is no maternal and foetal portion of the placenta, or, rather, that it is all foetal, of course believe, where the matter of injection, thrown into the uterine vessels, has passed into the cells of the placenta, that it has been owing to the rupture of parts, by the force with which the injection has been propelled.

Another fact, that proves the indirect nature of the connexion which exists between the parent and child, is the total want of correspondence between the circulation of the foetus and that of the mother. By applying the stethoscope to the abdomen of a pregnant female, the beating of the foetal heart is observed to be twice as frequent as that of the mother. (See p. 464 of this volume.) Again, examples have occurred in which the foetus has been extruded with the placenta and membranes entire.<sup>d</sup> In a case of this kind, which occurred to Wrisberg, the circulation continued for nine minutes; in one described by Oslander,<sup>e</sup> for fifteen minutes; in some, by Professor Chapman, from ten to twenty minutes; and in one, by Professor Channing, of Boston, and Dr. Selby, of Tennessee, where a bath of tepid water was used to resuscitate the foetus, for an hour.<sup>f</sup> Marson<sup>g</sup> and Flajani relate cases in which life continued for the same time:

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Mussey, in Amer. Journ., of the Med. Sciences, for November, 1829.

<sup>b</sup> Granville's Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, &c. p. xx. Lond. 1834.

<sup>c</sup> Précis Élémentaire, ii. 552.

<sup>d</sup> Granville, op. cit. part x. London, 1834.

<sup>e</sup> Annalen, tom. i. p. 27.

<sup>f</sup> Horner's Special and General Anatomy, 5th edit. ii. 277, Philad. 1839.

<sup>g</sup> Lond. Med. Gazette, August, 1833.

Dr. Nehr,<sup>a</sup> of Rehau, in Bavaria, has given a case in which the circulation of the child was unequivocal for seven hours after the sudden and decided death of the mother; and other cases are referred to by D'Outrepoint in his comments on this one.<sup>b</sup> In other cases of a similar kind, where the child could scarcely breathe and was in danger of perishing, the life of the placenta was maintained by keeping it in water of a temperature nearly equal to that of the body, and the child was saved. All these facts prove demonstratively, that the *fœtus* carries on a circulation independently of that of the mother; and whatever passes between the *fœtal* and maternal vessels is probably exhaled from the one and absorbed by the other, as the case may be. The fluid sent to the *fœtus* is supposed by some,—indeed by most physiologists—to be the maternal blood, modified or unmodified. Schreger,<sup>c</sup> however, and others maintain, that the communication of any nutritious fluid from the mother to the *fœtus*, and conversely, takes place by means of lymphatics, and not by blood-vessels; and that the maternal vessels exhale into the spongy tissue of the placenta the serous part of the blood, which is taken up by the lymphatics of the *fœtal* portion, and conveyed into the thoracic duct. The views of Mr. Goodsir in regard to the absorbing tufts of *fœtal* vessels have been given already, when describing the placenta.

It has been before remarked, that Lobstein<sup>d</sup> and Meckel<sup>e</sup> suppose, that the gelatinous substance of the cord is one of the materials of *fœtal* nutrition. This opinion they found on the circumstance of the albuminous nature of the substance, and the great size which it gives to the cord at the early periods of *fœtal* life, as well as on the great developement of the absorbent vessels of the *fœtus*, that proceed from the umbilicus to the anterior mediastinum; whilst others invoke, also, the fluids of the umbilical and allantoic vesicles. All these speculations regarding the various sources of nutritive matter are sufficient evidence of the uncertainty that prevails on this interesting topic. It is manifest, however, that we cannot regard as nutritive matters those substances which are secreted by the *fœtus* itself. It is impossible, that any developement can occur without the reception of materials from without. We have seen, that when the ovum passes from the ovarium to the uterus, it contains, within it, a molecule, and fluids which are probably destined for the nutrition of the new being, and which afford the necessary pabulum for the increase, that occurs between the period of impregnation and that at which an adhesion is formed between the ovum and the inner surface of the uterus. The mother, having furnished the nutritive material in the ovum, she must continue to provide it in the uterus; and as soon as the vascular communication is formed between the exterior of the ovum and the interior of the uterus, nutritive elements are doubtless received by the embryo;—for otherwise it would perish from inanition. What then

<sup>a</sup> Neue Zeitschrift für Geburtshunde, von Busch, D'Outrepoint und Ritgen, Band. iv. Heft 1, s. 58, Berlin, 1836.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. s. 60. See, also, Diction. des Sciences Médicales, tom. xvii. p. 442; and Osiander's Handbuch der Entbindungskunde, B. iii. Abth. 2, s. 157.

<sup>c</sup> De Functione Placentæ Uterinæ, Erlang. 1795.

<sup>d</sup> Essai sur la Nutrition du Fœtus, Strasbourg, 1812.

<sup>e</sup> Handbuch, u. s. w., Jourdan and Breschet's translation, iii. 785, Paris, 1825.



can be the nature of these elements? Do they consist of maternal blood, laid hold of by the fœtus at this early period, when no circulatory system is apparent; or are the blood-vessels distributed to the membranes of the ovum, to enable them to continue the secretion of that nutritive matter which they took with them from the ovarium, and which must necessarily have had a maternal origin? The latter certainly is the more probable supposition, and it is, as we have seen, an argument in favour of the amnion being supplied with blood from the uterus, rather than from the fœtus; for, if we admit it to be in any manner inservient to nutrition, its production must be extraneous to the body which it has to nourish. These observations apply equally to the jelly of the umbilical cord, which is probably secreted by the membranous envelopes, and may consequently be regarded as a nutritive material derived from the parent. Both, it is true, might be secreted by the fœtus from fluids furnished by the mother, and be placed in depot, as the fat is in after existence.

Philosophical Anatomy, then, instructs us, that the placenta and umbilical cord are not indispensable to fœtal nutrition; and compels us to infer with Meckel<sup>a</sup>—one of the most eminent of modern anatomists and physiologists—that the human placenta may have no direct agency in embryotrophy. We are, therefore, necessarily driven to the conclusion, before laid down,—that, in order for a fœtus to be developed in utero, it is but necessary, that there shall be an absorbing surface, surrounded by a nutritive substance, which will admit of being absorbed. Now, the cutaneous envelope of the fœtus—monstrous or natural—is such a surface, and the liquor amnii such a fluid; and the matter of the umbilical vesicle, with the jelly of the cord, when these parts exist, and possibly some material derived through the placenta—after it exists—may lend their aid; but the participation of these last agents is—to say the least—doubtful. The function of the placenta probably is, to admit of the fœtal blood being *shown* to that circulating in the maternal vessels, so that some change may be effected in the former, which may better adapt it for serving as the pabulum, whence the secretions, from which the fœtal organs have to be elaborated, may be formed. According to Dr. Reid,<sup>b</sup> the blood of the mother, contained in the placental sac already described, and the blood of the fœtus contained in the umbilical vessels, can readily act and react on each other, through the spongy and cellular walls of the placental vessels and the thin sac ensheathing them, in the same manner as the blood in the branchial vessels of aquatic animals is acted upon by the water in which they float. If we admit this, however, it is obvious, that the nutritive fluid, when received into the system, will have to be made into blood by the action of the fœtus, in a manner, bearing some analogy to what occurs in the adult, or in the simplest of living beings, in which the nutritive fluid is absorbed at the surface of the body. Of the mode in which such conversion is effected we are in the same darkness that envelopes all the mysterious processes which are esteemed organic and vital; but that the fœtus is capable of effecting it we

<sup>a</sup> Loc. citat.

<sup>b</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ. Jan. 1841, p. 8.

have irrefragable proof in the oviparous animal, where there can be no communication, after the egg is laid, between the embryo and the parent. Yet we find it forming its own blood from the yolk surrounding it, and undergoing its full and regular developement from causes seated in itself alone.

Of those physiologists, who consider that the mother sends her blood to the placenta, to be taken up by the foetal vessels, all do not conceive that it is in a state adapted for the nutrition of the new being: some are of opinion that the placenta, or the liver, or both, modify it, but in a manner which they do not attempt to explain. In favour of such an action being exerted by the placenta, they state that it is clearly the organ which absorbs the fluid, and that every organ of absorption is necessarily one of elaboration;—a principle which we have elsewhere proved to be unfounded; and, moreover, that the blood conveyed to the foetus by the umbilical vein, differs essentially in colour from that conveyed to it by the umbilical arteries, which, we shall see, is not the fact, and, if it were, could be accounted for more satisfactorily. In support of the view, that a second change is effected in the liver, they affirm, that a great part of the foetal blood ramifies in the substance of that organ before it reaches the heart; a part only going by the ductus venosus; and that the great size of the liver, during foetal life, when its function of secreting bile can be but sparingly exerted, is in favour of this notion.\* The opinion, that some change is effected upon the blood in the liver, is certainly much more philosophical and probable than the belief of Haller, that the object of its passage through that organ is to deaden the force with which the mother projects the fluid into the foetal vessels. We have seen, that it is extremely doubtful, whether she transmit any; and that if she does, the communication is very indirect.

M. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire<sup>b</sup> appears to think, that the blood of the mother, which he conceives to be sent through the placenta to the foetus, is unfitted for foetal life, before it has undergone certain modifications. The blood, according to him, which leaves the placenta, proceeds in part to the liver, and the remainder to the heart. In the liver it forms the material of the biliary secretion, or at least of a fluid, which, when discharged into the intestines, irritates them, and provokes a copious secretion from the mucous or lining membrane. This mucus, according to M. Saint-Hilaire, is always met with in the stomach and intestines of the foetus; and the presence of meconium, and of other excrementitious matters in the intestines, shows, that digestion must have taken place. This digestion he considers to be effected upon the mucus, secreted in the manner just mentioned; and, in support of its being inservient to sanguification, he affirms, that its quantity is too great for the simple purpose of lubricating the parts; that mucus is the first stage of all organic compounds; that it predominates in all young beings; is the foundation of every organ; more capable of assimilation than any other substance, &c. But in-

\* Velpeau, *Traité de l'Art des Accouchemens*; or Meigs's translation, 2d edit. p. 224, Philad. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> *Philosophie Anatomique*, Paris, 1818-22.

dependently of the whole of this view being entirely hypothetical; it cannot be esteemed probable, that the fœtus is nourished by one of its own secretions. All secretions must be formed from blood. Blood must, therefore, pre-exist in the fœtal vessels, and the process, indicated by Saint-Hilaire, be unnecessary.

Allusion has already been made to the opinions of Schreger on the nutrition of the fœtus. These were developed in a letter, written by him, in 1799, to Sömmering.<sup>a</sup> He considers, that all communication of nutritious matter between the mother and fœtus occurs through the lymphatics which he has described as existing in considerable numbers in the placenta and umbilical cord. The red blood, flowing in the maternal vessels, is too highly charged with carbon, and with other heterogeneous substances, he thinks, to serve for the nutrition of the fœtus. Its serous part, which is purer and more oxygenized, is therefore alone exhaled. The uterine arteries pour this serum into the spongy texture of the placenta, whence it is taken up by the lymphatics of the fœtal portion. These convey it along the umbilical cord to the thoracic duct, whence it passes into the left subclavian, vena cava superior, right auricle and ventricle, ductus arteriosus, and aorta; and, by the umbilical arteries, is returned to the placenta. In this course, it is mixed with the blood, and becomes itself converted into that fluid. When it attains the placenta, the blood is not poured into the cells of that organ, to be transported to the mother, but it passes into the umbilical vein, the radicles of which are continuous with the final ramifications of the umbilical arteries. Lateral pores, however, exist in the latter, which suffer fluids to escape, that cannot be elaborated by the fœtus, or that require again to be submitted to the maternal organs, before they are fitted for its support. These fluids, according to Schreger, are not absorbed by the veins of the uterus, but by the lymphatics of that viscus, which are so apparent in the pregnant state, and have been injected by Cruikshank, Meckel, &c. In his view, therefore, the conversion of the serous fluid into blood is chiefly effected in the lymphatic system, and it has been a favourite hypothesis with many physiologists, that those organs, regarding whose functions we are so profoundly ignorant, and whose developement is so much greater during intra-uterine than extra-uterine existence,—as the thymus, and thyroid glands, and the supra-renal capsules,—are, in some way, connected with the lymphosis or hæmotosis of the fœtus. We have already referred to the conjectures, that these organs are diverticula for the blood of those parts, the functions of which are not exerted until an after period of existence. Broussais<sup>b</sup> makes the thyroid a diverticulum to the larynx; the thymus a diverticulum to the lungs, and the supra-renal capsules to the kidneys. Notwithstanding these ingenious speculations, however, our darkness, with regard to the true functions of these singular organs, is not the less impenetrable.

<sup>a</sup> Epistol. ad S. Th. Sömmering, De Functione Placentæ Uterinæ, Erlang. 1799. See, also, Richerand, op. cit., 13ème édit. § cævi.

<sup>b</sup> Commentaires des Propositions de Pathologie, &c., Paris, 1829, or Drs. Hays and Griffith's translation, p. 214. Philad. 1832.

To conclude. The most plausible opinion we can form on this intricate subject is, that the mother secretes the substances, which are placed in contact with the fœtus, in a condition best adapted for its nutrition; that in this state they are received into the system, by absorption, as the chyle or the lymph is received in the adult,—undergoing modifications, in their passage through the fœtal placenta, as well as in every part of the system where the elements of the blood must escape for the formation of the various tissues.

With regard to the precise nutritive functions executed in the fœtal state, and *first* as concerns *digestion*, it is obvious, that this cannot take place to any extent, otherwise excrementitious matter would have to be thrown out, which, by entering the liquor amnii, would be fatal to its important functions, and probably to the very existence of the fœtus. Yet, that some digestion is effected, is manifest from the presence of meconium in the intestines, which is probably the excrementitious matter, arising from the digestion of the mucous secretions of the alimentary canal.

2. *Respiration*, as accomplished by lungs, does not exist; and we have already seen, that the idea of the fœtus possessing the kind of respiration of the aquatic animal is inadmissible. An analogous function to the respiration of the adult, however, occurs, as respects the changes effected upon the blood. It is probable, that the blood is sent to the placenta to be aerated there, as it is in the lungs in extra-uterine existence. Such was the opinion of Sir Everard Home, of Girtanner, Stein,\* and we may say, such is the opinion of many of the most enlightened physiologists of the present day. The chief arguments adduced in support of this opinion are,—the absolute necessity for aeration to every living being, animal or vegetable; the no less necessity for a free circulation of blood along the umbilical cord to and from the placenta to the life of the fœtus; and the analogy of birds, in which the umbilical vessels are inservient to respiration by receiving the external air through the pores of the shell, so that if the shell be greased, respiration is prevented, and the chick dies.<sup>b</sup>

The sensible evidences of these changes being effected by the placenta, are not like those which we possess regarding the aeration of the blood in its passage through the lungs of the adult, where the venous differs so essentially from the arterial blood. It is indeed asserted, in works of anatomy, that “the effete blood of the umbilical arteries becomes regenerated in the placenta, assumes a brighter hue, and is returned to the fœtus by the umbilical vein,” but this is not in accordance with experiment and observation. Bichat<sup>c</sup> made numerous dissections of young pigs whilst yet in utero, and he uni-

\* Meckel's Handbuch, u. s. w., Jourdan and Breschet's French translation, iii. 793, Paris, 1825; Meigs's translation of Velpeau, edit. cit. p. 225; and Granville's Graphic Illustrations of Abortion, p. xviii. Lond. 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Varnishes of organic animal matters, as albumen, gelatin, &c., have no effect in preventing the transmission of air. See Mr. Towne, Guy's Hospital Reports, Oct. 1839, p. 395.

<sup>c</sup> Anatomie Générale, ii. 344, Paris, 1818; and Recherches Physiologiques sur la Vie et la Mort, p. 190. Paris, 1806.

formly found the blood of the arteries and veins presenting the same appearance and resembling the venous blood of the mother. Not the slightest difference was observed between the blood of the aorta and that of the vena cava, or between that of the carotid artery and of the jugular vein. He made the same observations in three experiments of a similar kind on fœtuses of the dog. He also frequently examined human fœtuses that had died in utero, and always found the same uniformity between the arterial and venous blood: hence he concludes, that there is no difference, between the arterial and venous blood of the fœtus, at least in appearance. Similar experiments by Autenrieth<sup>a</sup> furnished like results. Dr. Granville, too, affirms, that he has never been able to detect the least difference between the arterio-umbilical and venous-umbilical blood in the many cases he has examined,<sup>b</sup> and it is important to bear this fact in mind, inasmuch as it may be received as one of the evidences that a fœtus has not respired. The apparent identity, however, between the blood passing to the placenta by the umbilical arteries and that returning by the cord cannot be real. The slightest reflection will show, that they must be different, and such is the opinion, from observation, of Bostock,<sup>c</sup> Jeffrey,<sup>d</sup> and others. It is from the blood, carried by the umbilical vein and distributed over the body, that all the organs of the fœtus have to derive the materials of their nutrition and development; and being deprived of these materials, the fluid must necessarily be different in the umbilical arteries from what it is in the umbilical vein. The researches of more modern chemistry have not been directed to the fœtal blood, but Fourcroy<sup>e</sup> analyzed it, and found it to differ materially from the blood of the child that had respired. He asserts, that its colouring matter is darker, and seems to be more abundant; that it is destitute of fibrin and phosphoric salts, and is incapable of becoming florid by exposure to the influence of atmospheric air. It has been found, too, that the globules of the fœtal blood do not resemble those of the blood of the mother. The fact, however, of the similarity in appearance between the arterial and venous blood of the fœtus, is no evidence that respiration is not one of the fœtal functions, inasmuch as the same thing is observed in fishes. Under the head of Circulation it was remarked, that the coloration of the blood is perhaps of no farther importance than as indicating that the vital change of aeration has taken place in the lungs. In this case, we have the vital change effected without any such coloration. Yet how, it may be asked, is the modification in the blood produced where no placenta and no umbilical cord exist? as well as in the cases before referred to (p. 536) in which the fœtus continues alive for hours after the death of the mother? And can we suppose that

<sup>a</sup> *Dissertatio Sistens Experimenta circa Calorem Fœtus, et Sanguinem Ipsius Instituta*. Tubing. 1799; also, Velpeau, by Meigs, p. 224.

<sup>b</sup> *Graphic Illustrations, &c.*, p. 20. See, also, J. Müller's *Handbuch*, u. s. w., Baly's translation, p. 318, Lond. 1837; Richerand, *Elémens de Physiologie*, 13ème édit. par Bérard aîné, § cexviii.; Cuvier, *Leçons d'Anatomie Comparée*, iv. 298, Paris, 1799; and Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 405.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. cit.*  
<sup>d</sup> Dr. Chapman, *Philadelphia Journal of the Med. and Phys. Sciences*, i. 10; and the *Physiology of the Fœtus, Liver, and Spleen*, by George C. Holland, M.D., p. 154. Lond. 1831.

<sup>e</sup> *Annales de Chimie*, vii. 165.

in such cases aeration is effected by the liquor amnii containing an unusual quantity of oxygen, as has been presumed by some physiologists? We have before remarked, that J. Müller was unable to detect oxygen in the liquor amnii, and he found that when fish were placed in it, they died as soon as in oil.\* These are embarrassing questions—more easily propounded than answered. By some, it has been presumed, that the liver, even in the adult, performs a function supplementary to that of the lungs, and the great size of the organ, in the fœtus, has been conceived to favour the idea, that it may separate carbon and other matters freely from the system, and in this way, be depuratory; but the grounds for this presumption are not, we think, impregnable.

3. It is in the *fœtal circulation* that we observe the most striking peculiarities of intra-uterine existence. Of its condition at the very earliest periods we know little that is not conjectural. We will, therefore, consider it as it is effected during the last months of uterogestation. From the sketch already given of the circulatory organs of the fœtus, it will be recollected;—1st. That the two auricles of the heart communicate by an aperture in the septum, called the *foramen ovale*, which has a valve opening towards the left ventricle. 2dly. That near the orifice of the vena cava inferior is the *valve of Eustachius*, so situate as to direct the blood of the cava into the foramen ovale. 3dly. That the pulmonary artery has a vessel passing from it into the aorta,—the *ductus arteriosus*. 4thly. That two arteries, called *umbilical*, proceed from the internal iliacs to the umbilicus and placenta; and lastly, That the *umbilical vein* from the placenta pours part of its blood into the vena porta; and part passes by the *ductus venosus*,—a fœtal vessel,—into the inferior cava.

The course of the circulation, then, is as follows:—the blood of the umbilical vein,—the radicles of which communicate with those of the umbilical arteries in the placenta,—proceeds along this vein to the umbilicus, and thence to the liver. A part of this traverses the ductus venosus, enters the vena cava inferior, and becomes mixed with the blood from the lower parts of the fœtus; the remainder passes into the vena portæ, is distributed through the liver, and, by means of the hepatic veins, is likewise poured into the vena cava. In this manner it attains the right auricle. Owing to the arrangement of the valve of Eustachius, the blood passes immediately through the foramen ovale into the left auricle,—without being mixed with the blood proceeding from the upper parts of the body,—into the right auricle through the vena cava superior. The left auricle is consequently as much developed as the right, which it would scarcely be, did it receive only the blood from the lungs. Were it not as large, it is obvious, that it would be insufficient to carry on the circulation when the whole of the blood passes through the lungs, and is poured into it, after respiration is established.

The above are the opinions of Wolff and Sabatier<sup>b</sup> regarding the

\* Op. citat. i. 305.

<sup>b</sup> Traité Complet d'Anatomie, ii. 224, and iii. 387; and Mémoire de l'Académie des Sciences, pour 1744.

use of the Eustachian valve. According to this view, if the valve did not exist, the aerated blood, conveyed to the heart by the ductus venosus, instead of being directed into the left auricle through the foramen ovale, would pass into the right auricle, and thence, in part at least,—into the right ventricle; from which it would be transmitted, through the pulmonary artery and ductus arteriosus, into the descending aorta; so that no part of the body, above the opening of the duct into the aorta, could receive the aerated blood, whilst much of that which passes along the aorta would be returned to the placenta by the umbilical arteries. But as the blood is directed into the left auricle by the Eustachian valve, it passes from thence into the left ventricle, and is forced by it into the aorta, which distributes it to every part of the system, and thus conveys the regenerated fluid to every organ. Dr. Wistar<sup>a</sup> also suggested, that, without this arrangement of the Eustachian valve, the coronary arteries, distributed to the heart, would be unfit for supporting the life of that organ, inasmuch as they would be deprived of a regular supply of revived blood. From the left auricle, the blood passes into the left ventricle, and from the left ventricle into the ascending aorta, and to the upper parts of the body, from which it is brought back, by the vena cava superior, into the right auricle; thence it is transmitted into the right ventricle, and, by the contraction of the ventricle, into the pulmonary artery. By this vessel it is sent,—the greater part through the ductus arteriosus into the descending aorta, and a small part to the lungs. From the lungs, it is returned into the left auricle by the pulmonary veins. Through the descending aorta, the blood, conveyed in part by the ductus arteriosus, and in part by the contraction of the left ventricle, is distributed, partly to the lower extremities, from which it is returned by corresponding veins into the vena cava inferior, and partly by the umbilical arteries to the placenta.

This view of the circulation supposes,—what is disputed,—that the blood of the vena cava superior and of the vena cava inferior does not undergo admixture in the right auricle; whence it would follow that some parts of the body receive a purer blood than others,—the upper parts, as the head and neck, receiving that which flows immediately from the placenta, whilst the lower parts do not obtain it until it has circulated through the upper. Under any view it is manifest, that not the whole of the blood is distributed to the organ of aeration, as in the adult, but a part only, as in the batrachia.

Bichat and Magendie<sup>b</sup> contest the explanation of Wolff and Sabatier regarding the use of the valve of Eustachius and the non-admixture of the blood of the two cavæ in the right auricle. In their opinion, the two bloods do commingle; but—owing to the existence of the foramen ovale, and the arrangement of the valve of Eustachius—the left auricle is filled simultaneously with the right; and, consequently, the same kind of blood must be distributed to both the upper and lower portions of the body. The uses of the foramen ovale and ductus arteriosus are explained as follows. As the left auricle re-

<sup>a</sup> System of Anatomy, 3d edit., edited by Dr. Horner, ii. 76. Philad. 1823.

<sup>b</sup> Précis Élémentaire de Physiologie, 2de édit. ii. 550. Paris, 1825.

ceives but little blood from the lungs, it could furnish but a small quantity to the left ventricle, did it not receive blood through the foramen ovale; and again, as the lung is exerting no function during the state of foetal life, the blood is sent along the pulmonary artery and ductus arteriosus into the aorta, so that the contraction of both ventricles is employed in propelling the blood along the aorta to the lower parts of the body and to the placenta. Without this union of forces, it is conceived, that the blood could not be urged forward as far as the placenta.

Experiments by Dr. John Reid<sup>a</sup> favour the views of Wolff and Sabatier. He took a foetus of about seven months, and threw simultaneously a red-coloured injection up the vena cava inferior, and a yellow-coloured one down the vena cava superior. On tracing the red injection upwards, it was found to have passed through the foramen ovale and to have filled the left side of the heart, without any intermixture with the yellow, except very slightly at the posterior part of the right auricle. Not a drop of the yellow appeared to have accompanied the red into the left side of the heart. From the left side of the heart it ascended the aorta, and filled all the large vessels going to the head and upper extremities. The injection, in all these vessels, had not the slightest tinge of yellow. On tracing the yellow injection downwards, he found it filling the right auricle and the right ventricle, whence it proceeded along the pulmonary artery, and filled the ductus arteriosus, and branches going to the lungs. On entering the aorta, it passed down that vessel, filling it completely without any admixture of red, so that all the branches of the thoracic and abdominal aorta were filled with the yellow. From this and other experiments of a similar kind, Dr. Reid infers, that the blood, returning from the placenta, passes principally to the head and upper extremities; and that the lower part of the body is principally supplied by blood returning by the vena cava superior; or, in other words, by blood which has already gone the circuit of the body.

The observations, however, of Dr. T. Williams<sup>b</sup> have convinced him, notwithstanding the opposing experiments of Dr. Reid, that the Eustachian valve is mechanically inefficient as a means for preserving the individuality of the two currents from the vena cava as they traverse the right auricle; and he affirms, that at the period of its diastole, when the auricle has attained a moderate limit of distension, it may be readily demonstrated, that the two streams must freely intermingle. Hence it is not true—he infers—that the difference of quality is so great, as is generally taught by anatomists, between the blood that is distributed to the two portions of the body in the foetus.

After all, the great difference between the adult and foetal circulation is,—that in the former, a part of the blood only proceeds to the organ of sanguification; that the aerated blood is poured into the right auricle instead of the left; that, instead of proceeding through the lungs, a part of the blood gets at once to the left side of the heart, whence it is sent to the head and upper extremities, and the remainder

<sup>a</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ. xliii. 308.

<sup>b</sup> London Med. Gaz., March 31, 1843.



goes directly from the pulmonary artery into the aorta; and that a part of the aortic blood proceeds to the lower extremities, and the remainder goes to the placenta, from which it is returned into the inferior cava.

4. With regard to the *nutrition*, (properly so called,) of the fœtus, it is doubtless effected in the same manner as in the adult; and our ignorance of the precise nature of the mysterious process is equally great. During the whole of fœtal existence, it is energetically exerted, and especially during the earlier periods. Sömmering has asserted, that the growth of the fœtus fluctuates; that in the first month it is greatest; in the second, less; in the third, greater; less, again, in the fourth; and then greater until the sixth, when it diminishes until birth.

There is, by the way, a singular circumstance connected with the nutrition of the fœtus, which cannot be passed over without a slight notice, although, in its details, it belongs more properly to pathological anatomy. Owing to inappreciable causes, the different parts of the fœtus, or some particular part, may be preternaturally developed, or be defective, so as to give rise to *anomalies* of conformation, or what have been termed *monstrosities*. Three kinds of monsters may be considered to exist. The *first* comprises such as are born with an excess of parts, as with two heads on one trunk, two trunks to one head; with four arms and four legs; twins with a band uniting them, as in the case of the Siamese twins, &c. The *second* includes those in which parts are defective, as acephali, anencephali, &c.; and the *third*, those in which there is perversion of the formative process, so as to produce various modifications in the direction and situation of organs,—as where the heart is on the right side, the liver on the left, &c.; where, in other words, there is *transposition of the viscera*. In these cases there is—to use the language of the German pathologists—*superabundant, defective, or perverted* action of the force of formation—the *Bildungstrieb*—to which we have more than once alluded.

The hypotheses, that have been advanced to account for these formations, as well as for those in which the parts are irregularly developed, may be reduced to three;—the others, that have been entertained, having no probability in their favour. *First*. They have been attributed to the influence of the imagination of the mother on the fœtus in utero. *Secondly*. To accidental changes experienced by the fœtus at some period of uterine existence; and *Thirdly*. To some original defect or fusion of the germs. The first of these causes has been a subject of keen controversy amongst physiologists, at all periods. We have seen, that the mother transmits to the fœtus the materials for its nutrition; and that, to a certain extent, the nutrition is influenced by the character of the materials transmitted; so that if these be not of good quality or in due quantity, the fœtus will be imperfectly nourished, and may even perish. Any violent mental emotion may thus destroy the child, by modifying the quantity or quality of the nutritive matter sent to it. Small-pox, measles, and other contagious diseases can also be unquestionably communicated to the fœtus in

utero; so that the life of the *foetus* is indirectly but largely dependent upon the condition of the mother. But the maternal influence has been conceived to extend much beyond this; and it has been affirmed, that her excited imagination may occasion an alteration in the form of particular parts of the *foetus*, so as to give rise to *navi*, and to all kinds of *mother's marks*, as they have been termed. These may consist of spots resembling raspberries, grapes, &c.; or there may be defective formation of particular parts,—and some of the cases that have been adduced in favour of their having been induced by impressions, made upon the mother during pregnancy, are sufficiently striking. There are numerous difficulties, however, in the way of accepting the cause assigned. If a child be born with *navi* of any kind, the recollection of the mother is racked to discover whether some event did not befall her during gestation to which the appearance may be referred, and it is not often difficult to discover some plausible means of explanation. Cases have occurred in which the mother, when a few months advanced in pregnancy, has been shocked by the sight of a person who had lost a hand, and the child has been born with the same defect. A young female, a few months gone with child, visited a brother in one of the hospitals of London, who was wounded in the side. His condition affected her extremely. Her child was born with a deep pit in the same part that was wounded in the brother. These are samples of the thousands of cases that have been recorded, or that have occurred to different individuals.<sup>a</sup> Similar instances have even been related of the inferior animals. In the extracts from the minute book of the Linnean Society of London, an account is given, by Mr. George Milne, F. L. S., of the effect of the imagination of a cat on her young. One afternoon, whilst Mr. Milne and his family were at tea, a young female cat, which had arrived at the middle of gestation, was lying on the hearth. A servant, by accident, trod very heavily on her tail; she screamed violently, and from the noise emitted, it was evident, that a considerable degree of terror was mingled with the feeling from the injury. From so common a circumstance no extraordinary result was expected; but, at the full time, she dropped five kittens, one of which was perfect, but the other four had the tail remarkably distorted; and all distorted in the same manner.<sup>b</sup>

Are we to consider these and similar cases of malformation or monstrosities to be dependent upon the influence of the maternal imagination upon the *foetus* in utero? Or are we to regard them as coincidences, the cause being inappreciable, but such as we find to give occasion to vicious organization, where no coincidence with excited imagination can be discovered? Under the head of Generation we have shown the difficulty in believing that the mother's fancy can have any effect—as to sex or likeness—during a fecundating copulation. Let us see, then, what we have to admit in a case where a female is, we

<sup>a</sup> J. B. Demangeon, *Du Pouvoir de l'Imagination sur la Physique et la Moral de l'Homme*, Paris, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> Fleming's *Philosophy of Zoology*, vol. i. Edinb. 1822.

will suppose, four months advanced in pregnancy, when she is shocked at the appearance of one who has lost his arm, and the child is born with a like defect. It has been seen that the communication between the mother and the *foetus* is of the most indirect character; that the circulation of the *foetus* is totally distinct from that of the mother; and that she can only influence the *foetus* through the nutritive material she furnishes—whatever be its character—and, consequently, that such influence must be exerted upon the whole of the *foetus*, and not upon any particular part. Yet, in the supposititious case we have taken, the arm must have been already formed, and the influence of the mother's fancy must have been exclusively exerted upon its absorbents, so as to cause them to take up again that which had been already deposited! The case we have assumed is not environed with more difficulty than any of the kind. It is a fair specimen of the whole. Yet how impracticable for us to believe, that the effect can be in any way connected with the assigned cause, and how much more easy to presume that the coincidence, in such cases, has been accidental. Cases of hare-lip are perpetually occurring, yet we never have the maternal imagination invoked; because it is by no means easy to discover any similitude between the affection and common extraneous objects. Moreover, in animals of all kinds—even in the most inferior, as well as in plants—monstrous formations are incessantly happening where maternal imagination is out of the question. As a cause of monstrosities, therefore, its influence has been generally regarded as an inadmissible hypothesis. By many it has been esteemed ridiculous; yet it manifestly receives favour with Sir Everard Home;<sup>a</sup> and Professor Elliotson,<sup>b</sup> and Burdach,<sup>c</sup> appear inclined to favour it; but on the whole we are justified in adopting the opinion of Dr. Blundell, which has been embraced by Drs. Allen Thompson<sup>d</sup> and Wagner,<sup>e</sup> that it is contrary to experience, reason, and anatomy, to believe, that the strong attention of the mother's mind to a determinate object or event can cause a determinate or a specific impression upon the body of her child, without any force or violence from without; and that it is equally improbable, that, when the imagination is operating, the application of the mother's hand to any part of her own body, will cause a disfiguration or specific impression on a corresponding part of the body of the child! The third hypothesis, with regard to defective germs, we have already canvassed under Generation, and attempted to prove it insufficient. The second, consequently, alone remains, and is almost universally adopted. Independently of all disturbing influences from the mother, the *foetus* is known to be frequently attacked with spontaneous diseases, such as dropsy, ulceration, gangrene, cutaneous eruptions, &c. Some of these affections

<sup>a</sup> Philos. Transactions for 1825, and Lect. on Compar. Anat., v. 190, Lond. 1828.

<sup>b</sup> See his translation of Blumenbach's Physiology, 4th edit., p. 497, Lond. 1828.

<sup>c</sup> Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft, B. ii.; see, also, Pierquin, in Magendie's Journal de Physiologie, x. 364.

<sup>d</sup> Art. Generation, Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., P. xiii., p. 477, February, 1838.

<sup>e</sup> Elements of Physiology, translated by Dr. Willis, p. 227, note, Lond. 1841.

occasionally destroy it before birth. At other times, it is born with them; and hence they are termed *connate*, or *congenital*.<sup>a</sup>

The following table, drawn up by Mr. Wilde,<sup>b</sup> from the records of the *Gebäranstalt*, of Vienna, exhibits the malformations observed there in 23,413 births.

Clubfoot, . . . . .	16 cases, or once in	1463.31
Hare lip, . . . . .	20 "	1179.65
— simple, . . . . .	9 "	2601.44
— with cleft palate, . . . . .	11 "	2128.45
Spina bifida, . . . . .	5 "	4682.6
Hydrocephalus, . . . . .	6 "	3902.16
Six fingers, . . . . .	3 "	7804.33
Imperforate anus, . . . . .	2 "	11706.5
Hemicephalus, . . . . .	1 "	23413
Acephalus, . . . . .	1 "	23413
Umbilical hernia, . . . . .	1 "	23413
Without eyes, . . . . .	2 "	11706.5
Wanting superior part of vertex, . . . . .	1 "	23415
Lenticular cataract, . . . . .	1 "	23413
Wanting one upper extremity, . . . . .	2 "	11706.5
With plurality of fingers and toes, . . . . .	5 "	4682.6
Hydrocephalus with spina bifida, and closed anus, . . . . .	1 "	23413
Clubfoot and closed anus, . . . . .	1 "	23413

In a population, consequently, chiefly illegitimate, 88 deviations from the natural type occurred in 23,413 births, or about 1 in every 266 cases.

According to the last census of the United States, (1840,) the proportion of deaf and dumb, amongst the whites, was 1 in 2123; amongst the coloured, 1 in 2933.<sup>c</sup>

Where a part has been wanting, the nerve, or blood-vessel, or both, proceeding to it, have likewise been found wanting; so that the defect of the organ has been thus explained; without our being able, however, to understand the cause of the deficiency of such nerve or blood-vessel.

In some of the cases of monstrosities, a fusion of two germs seems to have occurred. Two vesicles have been fecundated and subsequently commingled, so that children have been produced with two heads and one trunk, or with two trunks and one head, &c. &c. This appears certainly more probable than that the whole class of monsters by excess—including those commonly so called, and those usually considered as double monsters—owe their origin to different degrees of one common fault, and, consequently, the explanation of their origin ought to be the same for all; and "that no kind of fusion can account for the production of supernumerary individual organs, the rest of the body being single; but that it is not impossible, that excess of power in one ovum, which all admit can alone explain the lower degrees of duplicity, may, in proportionally lower degree, produce the more completely double monsters, or even two such separate individuals as are sometimes found with a single amnion."<sup>d</sup> The case

<sup>a</sup> J. Grätzer, *Die Krankheiten des Fötus*, Berlin, 1837, and Dr. W. C. Roberts, *Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences*, Aug. 1840, and Oct. 1841.

<sup>b</sup> Austria, &c., p. 224, Dublin, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Prof. G. Tucker, *Progress of the United States in Population and Wealth in Fifty Years*, p. 77, New York, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> *Brit. and Foreign Medical Review*, Oct. 1841, p. 388.

of the supernumerary individual organs appears to the author to be easily separable, and to admit of a distinct explanation from that of duplicity, or, as he regards it, fusion of ova. At times, where two ova appear to have been fecundated, the development of the one has been arrested, whilst the other has gone on. Two instances of this kind we have alluded to under Superfecundation, and under the theory of generation by evolution.

This interesting department of pathological anatomy has become, of late years, of moment as elucidating the normal formation of the animal body, which appears to be effected—even in the production of these anomalies—according to a unity of organic composition, and to laws of development but little appreciated until the present century, and still sufficiently obscure. The labours of Geoffroy and Isidore Saint-Hilaire, Serres, Sömmering, Meckel, Tiedemann, Béclard, Breschet, and others, have—as Cuvier remarked respecting some of them—occasioned the accumulation of an infinity of facts and views, which, even if we do not admit all that their authors contend for, cannot fail to be of solid advantage to science.\*

5. The *animal temperature* of the fœtus cannot be rigidly determined. The common belief is, that it is some degrees lower than that of the mother; and it is affirmed, that the temperature of the dead fœtus is higher than that of the living. If such be the fact, the fœtus must possess the means of refrigeration. Edwards found, in his experiments, that the temperature of new-born animals is inferior to that of the adult; which is in accordance with the general belief regarding that of the fœtus in utero. In some cases, as in those of the kitten, puppy, and rabbit, if the young be removed from the mother and exposed to a temperature of between 50° and 70°, their temperature will sink,—as happens to the cold-blooded animal,—to nearly the same degree. The faculty of producing heat he found to be at its minimum at birth; but it progressively increased, until in about fifteen days the animal acquired the power in the same degree with the adult. This was not the case, however, with all the mammalia. It seemed to be confined to those animals that are born blind; in which a state of imperfection probably exists in other functions. It was the same with birds as with the mammalia: birds, hatched in a defective state, as regards their organs generally, have the power of producing heat defective; whilst others, born in a more perfect condition, have the organs of calorification more capable of exercising their due functions. In a case in which the mother, who had borne five children, was confident that her period of gestation was less than 19 weeks; but probably from the length and weight of the fœtus it was 25 weeks, the power of calorification of the infant was so low,

\* See, especially, Geoffroy St. Hilaire, *Philosophie Anatomique*, Paris, 1818, and 1822; Isidore St. Hilaire, *Histoire Générale et Particulière des Anomalies de l'Organisation*, Paris, 1832-36; Serres, *Recherches d'Anatomie Transcendante*, Paris, 1839; and *Précis d'Anatomie Transcendante, appliquée à la Physiologie, &c.* Paris, 1842. See, also, an epitome of the views of modern Teratologists, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, July, 1839, p. 1; Mr. North, *Lond. Lancet*, March 7, 1840, or *Dunghison's Amer. Med. Intelligence*, Aug. 1 and 15, 1840; and an analysis of Professor Vrolik's work on *Double Monsters*, *Amsterd.* 1840, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Oct. 1841, p. 374.

that artificial heat was constantly needed to sustain it: under the influence of the heat of the fire, however, it evidently became weaker, whilst the genial warmth of a person in bed rendered it lively and comparatively strong.<sup>a</sup>

Opinions with regard to the temperature of the human infant vary, however. Haller<sup>b</sup> asserts that it has less power of producing heat than the adult, and such is the opinion of Despretz, Edwards,<sup>c</sup> and the generality of physiologists. The latter gentleman estimated it at 94·25° of Fahrenheit. On the other hand, Dr. John Davy<sup>d</sup> affirms, that the temperature of young animals generally, and that of a new-born child, which he particularly examined, was higher than in the adult. It is impossible to account for this discordance; but the general results of experiments would seem to agree with those of Edwards. Howsoever this may be, the fœtus certainly possesses the power of forming or separating its own caloric; otherwise its temperature should always correspond with that of the mother, which we have elsewhere seen is not the fact.

6. That the *secretions* are actively formed in the fœtus is proved by the circumstance, that all the surfaces are lubricated nearly as they are subsequently. The follicular secretion is abundant, and at times envelopes the body with a layer of sebaceous matter—the *vernix caseosa*—of considerable thickness. Vauquelin and Buniva<sup>e</sup> have asserted, that this is a deposit from the albumen of the liquor amnii; but, in reply to this, it may be urged, that we do not find it except on the body of the fœtus. It is not on the placenta or umbilical cord, and is most abundant on those parts of the fœtus, where the follicles are most numerous. The fat also exists in quantity after the fifth month. The greatest question has been with regard to the presence, in the fœtal state, of some of the secretions which are of an excrementitious character. For example,—by some, the *urinary secretion* is supposed to be in activity from the earliest period of intra-uterine existence, and its product to be discharged into the liquor amnii. Such is the opinion of Meckel.<sup>f</sup> The circumstances that favour it, are—the fact of the existence of the kidneys at a very early period; and that at the full time the bladder contains urine, which is evacuated soon after birth. On analysis, this is found to be less charged with urea and phosphoric salts than in after life.

Of the *meconium*, we have already spoken. (p. 479.) It is manifestly an excretory substance, produced, probably, by the digestion of the fluids of the alimentary canal, mixed with bile. Some, indeed, are of opinion, that it is altogether a secretion from the liver, and intended to purify the blood sent from the mother, so as to adapt it for the circulation of the fœtus. Into the value of the theory on which this notion rests, we have inquired at some length. The notion itself

<sup>a</sup> Edinb. Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xi.

<sup>b</sup> Element. Physiol. vi. 3.

<sup>c</sup> De l'Influence des Agens Physiques, Paris, 1824.

<sup>d</sup> Philos. Transact. p. 602, for 1814.

<sup>e</sup> Annales de Chimie, tom. xxxiii.; and Mémoire de la Société Médicale d'Emulation, iii. 229.

<sup>f</sup> Handbuch, u. s. w.; or French translation by Jourdan and Breschet, iii. 780; or the English translation by Dr. S. A. Doane, Philad. 1832; and Dr. Robert Lee, in Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, vol. xix., London, 1835.

scarcely requires further notice. We may remark, however, that it has been conceived by Dr. Lee, that the foetal liver secretes an abundant albuminous and nutritive matter, which fills the hepatic ducts, the duodenum and small intestines; whilst in the stomach we find only an acid fluid, and in the large intestines meconium.

Lastly, the *cutaneous respiration* is supposed to be a foetal excretion, and to be poured into the liquor amnii; but although this is probable, we have no positive evidence on the subject.

c. *Functions of Reproduction*.—These require no consideration. They are inactive during the foetal state, except that the testicles and the mammæ appear respectively to secrete a fluid which is neither sperm nor milk, and is found in the vesiculæ seminales in the one case, and in the lactiferous ducts in the other. It would appear also that the ovarian vesicles are already existent at this early period.\*

## B O O K I V.

### CHAPTER I.

#### AGES.

UNDER this head we have to include the modifications that occur in the functions during the life of man, from birth until dissolution. The different ages may be separated as follows:—*infancy*, comprising the period from birth until the second dentition;—*childhood*, that between the second dentition and puberty;—*adolescence*, that between puberty and manhood;—*virility*, that between youth and old age;—and *old age*.

#### 1. INFANCY.

The age of infancy extends from birth to the second dentition, or until about the seventh or eighth year. By Hallé, and after him by Renaudin,<sup>b</sup> Rullier,<sup>c</sup> Adelon,<sup>d</sup> and others, this has been again subdivided into three periods, which are somewhat distinct from each other, and may therefore be adopted with advantage. The one comprises the period between birth and the first dentition,—generally about seven months; a second embraces the whole period of the first dentition, or up to about two years, and the third includes the whole interval, that separates the first from the second dentition.

a. *First period of Infancy*.—As soon as the child is ushered into the world, it assumes an independent existence, and a series of changes

\* Carus, Gazette Médicale de Paris, Aug. 12, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Art. Age, Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales.

<sup>c</sup> Art. Age, Dict. de Médecine, i. 381, Paris, 1821.

<sup>d</sup> Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de édit. iv. 425, Paris, 1829.

occurs in its functions of the most sudden and surprising character. Respiration becomes established, after the manner in which it is to be effected during the remainder of existence; and the whole of the peculiarities of foetal circulation cease,—the organs of these peculiarities being modified in the manner to be described presently. The first act after the child is extruded is to breathe, and at the same time to cry. What are the agencies, then, by which this first inspiration is effected, and this disagreeable impression made upon the new being at the moment when it makes its entrance into the world? This has been an interesting topic of inquiry amongst physiologists. A few of the hypotheses that have been indulged will be sufficient to exhibit the direction which the investigation has taken.

Whytt,<sup>a</sup>—whose views were long popular, and still have supporters,—conceived, that before birth the blood of the foetus is properly prepared by the mother; and that when, after birth, it no longer receives the necessary supply, an uneasy sensation is experienced in the chest, which may be looked upon as the appetite for breathing, in the same manner as hunger and thirst are appetites for meat and drink. To satisfy this appetite, the brain excites the expansion of the chest to prevent the fatal effects that would ensue if the lungs were not immediately aroused to action. This appetite is supposed to commence at birth, owing to the circulation being quickened by the struggles of the foetus at that period, and to an additional quantity of blood passing through the lungs, which excites them to action, and seems to be the immediate cause of the appetite.<sup>b</sup> Haller<sup>c</sup> ascribes the first inspiration to the habit which the foetus has acquired, whilst in the uterus, of taking into the mouth a portion of the liquor amni; and he supposes, that it still continues to open its mouth, after leaving the mother, in search of its accustomed food. The air, consequently, rushes into the lungs, and expands them; the blood is distributed through them, and a regular supply of fresh air is needed to prevent the blood from stagnating in its passage from the right to the left side of the heart. Dr. Wilson Philip,<sup>d</sup> regards the muscles of inspiration as entirely under the control of the will; and he thinks, that they are thrown into action by the uneasy sensation experienced by the new being, when separated from the mother, and having no longer the necessary changes produced upon the blood by her organs. Adelon thinks it probable, that the series of developements occurring during gestation predisposes to the establishment of respiration. According to him, the lungs gradually increase in size during the latter months; the branches of the pulmonary vessels become enlarged, and the ductus arteriosus less; so that the lungs are prepared, for the new function they have to execute. In addition to these alterations, he conceives that the process of accouchement predisposes to the change; that, by the contractions of the uterus, the circulation of the

<sup>a</sup> An Essay on the Vital and other Involuntary Motions of Animals, Sect. ix. 103, Edinb. 1751.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Marshall Hall, in Lect. on the Nervous System, p. 55, Lond. 1836.

<sup>c</sup> Elem. Physiol. viii. 5, 2.

<sup>d</sup> Quarterly Journal of Science, &c., vol. xiv. 100.



blood must be necessarily modified in the placenta, and, consequently, in the *fœtus*;—for he is a believer in the doctrine, that the *fœtus* receives blood from the mother by the placenta. Owing to this disturbance in the circulation, more blood is sent to the lungs; and, when the child is born, it is subjected to new and probably painful impressions. “For instance,” he remarks, “the external air, by its coldness and weight, must cause a disagreeable impression on the skin of the infant, as well as on the origin of all the mucous membranes; and, perhaps, the organs of the senses being, at the same time, suddenly subjected to the contact of their proper irritants, receive painful impressions from them. These different impressions being transmitted to the brain, they are reflected to the different dependencies of the nervous system, and, consequently, into the nerves of the inspiratory muscles; these muscles, thus excited, enter into contraction, in the same manner as the heart is stimulated to renew its contractions during syncope, when we inspire a stimulating vapour.”

The view embraced by Dr. Bostock<sup>a</sup> explains the process, as far perhaps as is practicable, on mechanical principles. The first respiratory act, according to him, seems to be purely mechanical, and to result from the change of position which the child undergoes at birth. From the mode in which it rests in utero, every thing is done that position could accomplish, to diminish the dimensions of the chest; and any change in this position must have the effect of liberating the lungs from a portion of the pressure which they sustain. The head cannot be raised from the breast, nor the knees removed from the abdomen, without straightening the spine; and the spine cannot be reduced to a straight line without elevating the ribs and permitting the abdominal viscera to fall; but the ribs cannot rise nor the diaphragm descend, without enlarging the chest; and, as the chest enlarges, the lungs, which are the most elastic organs of the body, expand their air-cells, hitherto collapsed by external pressure, and the external air rushes in. The same cause is considered to account for the new circulatory movement. The blood, which, in the *fœtus*, had passed through the foramen ovale and the ductus arteriosus without visiting the lungs, is solicited from its course by the expansion of the chest, which draws the blood through the pulmonary artery as forcibly as it does air through the windpipe. The blood, thus exposed to the air in the lungs, becomes arterialized, and, from this moment, the distinction between arterial and venous blood is established. The circulation, through the vessels peculiar to the *fœtal* condition, now ceases, even without any ligature being placed upon the umbilical cord.

On the whole, the view of Whytt, with the additions suggested by Dr. Marshall Hall, affords, perhaps, the best explanation of the phenomena. It has been elsewhere shown, that the function of respiration is partly voluntary and partly involuntary; partly, in other

<sup>a</sup> *Elementary System of Physiology*, 3d edit. p. 323, Lond. 1836; Dr. Southwood Smith, in *Animal Physiology*, p. 101, *Library of Useful Knowledge*.

words, under the cerebro-spinal, and partly under the reflex system of nerves. When the *besoin de respirer* or appetite for air becomes irresistible, the reflex or true spinal system acts predominantly, and the muscles concerned in the mechanical phenomena of respiration are immediately thrown into appropriate action.

The sudden and important changes supervening in this manner guide us to the decision of an interesting medico-legal inquiry,—*viz*, whether in a case of alleged infanticide, the child has respired or not;—in other words, whether it has been born alive or dead? After respiration has been established, the lungs, from being dark-coloured and dense, become of a florid red hue; are light and spongy, and float on water: on cutting into them, the escape of air from the air-cells occasions a crepitus, and a bloody fluid exudes; there is an approach to closure of the foramen ovale; the ductus arteriosus is empty, as well as the ductus venosus; and the absolute weight of the lungs may be doubled. (See page 520 of this volume.)

The different conditions of the organs of circulation, the cord and the skin, at different periods, beginning at the first and ending with the thirty-fifth day, have been summed up as follows by M. Devergie.\* They may enable us to judge approximately of the age of the young infant, in questions of a medico-legal character. On the *first day*. Cord beginning to wither. Foramen ovale, ductus arteriosus, ductus venosus, and umbilical vessels open. *Second day*. Withering of the cord complete. Foramen ovale closed in two out of eleven cases; partially closed in one out of seven. Ductus arteriosus beginning to close. Umbilical arteries obliterated to a greater or less extent. Umbilical veins and ductus venosus still open. *Third day*. Desiccation of the cord. Foramen ovale sometimes closed. Ductus arteriosus obliterated in one in eleven cases. Umbilical arteries very often obliterated. Umbilical vein and ductus venosus still open. *Fourth day*. Cord beginning to fall off. Foramen ovale closed in about one-third of the cases. Ductus arteriosus still open in the majority of cases. Umbilical arteries closed, but sometimes open near the iliacs. Umbilical vein and ductus venosus much contracted. *Fifth day*. Separation of the cord with rare exceptions. Foramen ovale closed in more than half the cases. Ductus arteriosus closed in about half the cases. Umbilical vessels closed; vein occasionally open. Separation of the cuticle advanced. *Eighth day*. Entire separation of the cord, with commencing cicatrization. Foramen ovale closed in three-fourths of the cases. Ductus arteriosus completely obliterated in half the cases. Umbilical vessels closed. *Ninth to eleventh day*. Cicatrization of the umbilicus often complete; sometimes, however, there is an oozing of mucus from the cord for many days, so that the cicatrix is retarded. Separation of the cuticle on the trunk, chest, and abdomen, and at the articulations. *Twentieth to twenty-sixth day*. Separation of the greater part of the cuticle. *Thirtieth to thirty-fifth day*. Separation of the entire cuticle, except-

\* Médecine Legale, 2de édit. i. 552. Paris, 1840.

ing that of the hands and feet, which is often delayed until the *fortieth day*.<sup>a</sup>

Respiration having been once thoroughly established, the individual enters upon the first period of infancy, which has now to engage our attention.

The animal functions, during this period, undergo considerable development. The sense of tact is little evinced, but it exists, as the child appears very sensible to external cold. At first, the touch is not exerted under the influence of volition, but, towards the termination of the period, it begins to be active. The taste is almost always null at first. Adelon<sup>b</sup> thinks, that it is probably exerted on the first day as regards the fluids, which the infant sucks and drinks. We have daily evidence, however, that at an early period of existence, the most nauseous substances, provided they are not irritating, will be swallowed indiscriminately, and without the slightest repugnance; but, before the termination of the period we are considering, the taste becomes inconveniently acute, so that the exhibition of nauseous substances, as of medicine, is a matter of more difficulty. The smell is probably more backward than any of the other senses; the development of its organ being more tardy, the nose being small, and the nasal sinuses not in existence. In the first few weeks, sight and hearing are imperfectly exerted, but, subsequently, they are in full activity. The internal sensations, being instinctive, exist; all those at least that are connected with the animal and nutritive functions. Hunger and thirst appear during the first day of existence; the desire of passing the urine and fæces is doubtless present, notwithstanding they appear to be discharged involuntarily; and the morbid sensation of pain is often experienced, especially in the intestinal canal, owing to flatus, acidity, &c. During the first part of the period, the child exhibits no mental and moral manifestations; but, in the course of a few weeks, it begins to notice surrounding objects, especially such as are brilliant, and to distinguish between the faces to which it has been accustomed and those of strangers; awarding the smile of recognition or of satisfaction to the former, the look of gravity and doubt to the latter. Locomotion is, at this time, utterly impracticable, as well as the erect attitude. The muscular system of the child is not yet sufficiently developed; the spinous processes of the vertebræ are not formed, and it has not learned to keep the centre of gravity—or rather the vertical line—within the base of sustentation. The function of expression is at the early part of the period confined to the *vagitus* or squalling, which indicates the existence of uneasiness of some kind; but, before the termination of the period, the infant unites smiles and even laughter to the opposite expressions, and attempts to utter sounds, which cannot yet be considered as any attempt at conventional language. Sleep is largely indulged. Soon after birth, it is almost constant, except when the child is taking nutriment. Gradually, the waking intervals are lengthened; but, throughout, much sleep is needed, owing to the frail condition of the

<sup>a</sup> Guy, *Principles of Forensic Medicine*, Part i. p. 149. Lond. 1843.

<sup>b</sup> *Physiologie de l'Homme*, édit. cit. iv. 433.

nervous system, which is soon exhausted by exertion however feeble, and requires intermission of action.

After birth, the child has to subsist upon a different aliment from that with which it was supplied whilst in the maternal womb. Its digestion, therefore, undergoes modification. The nutriment is now the milk of the parent, or some analogous liquid, which is sucked in, in the manner described under the head of Digestion. For this kind of prehension, the mouth of the infant is well adapted. The tongue is very large, compared with the size of the body, and the want of teeth enables the lips to be extended forward, and to embrace the nipple more accurately and conveniently. The action of sucking is doubtless as instinctive as the appetite for nutriment, and equally incapable of explanation. The appetite appears to be almost incessant, partly owing to the rapidity of growth demanding continual supplies of nutriment, and partly, perhaps, owing to a feeling of pleasure experienced in the act, which is generally the prelude to a recurrence of sleep, broken in upon, apparently, for the mere purpose of supplying the wants of the system, or the artificial desire produced by frequent indulgence. Often, we have the strongest reason for believing, that the great frequency of the calls of the appetite is occasioned by the habit, with many mothers, of putting the child constantly to the breast; whilst in those children that have been trained, from the earliest period of existence, to receive the nutriment at fixed hours only, the desire may not return until the lapse of the accustomed interval. Digestion, at this age, is speedily accomplished: the evacuations being frequent,—two or three or more in the course of the day,—of a yellow colour, something like custard, or curdy, and having by no means the offensive smell, which they subsequently possess. During the first days after birth, they are dark and adhesive, and consist of the *meconium*, already described. Young mothers are apt to be alarmed at this appearance, which is entirely healthy, and always exists. The respiration of the infant is more frequent than in the adult, nearly in the proportion of two to one, and it is chiefly accomplished by the muscles that raise the ribs, on account of the great size of some of the abdominal viscera, which do not permit the diaphragm to be readily depressed. The stethoscope exhibits the respiration to be much more sonorous; so characteristic, indeed, is it, in this respect, that it has been called “puerile,” by way of distinction. It appears to indicate a greater degree of activity in the respiratory function. The circulation is more rapid; the pulsations at birth being nearly twice as numerous as in the adult. Nutrition is very active in the developement of the different organs. Calorification becomes gradually more energetic from the time of birth. The recremental secretions, as well as the excrementitious, are as regularly formed as in the adult; but the products vary somewhat. The urine, for instance, is less charged with urea, and contains benzoic acid; the perspiration is acidulous, &c., &c. Adelon asserts, that these excretions are frequently insufficient for the necessary depuration, and that nature, therefore, establishes others that are irregular and morbid, in the shape of cutaneous efflorescences,

\* Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de édit. iv. 436. Paris, 1829.

&c. These can scarcely be regarded as depurations; unless we consider all cutaneous eruptions, that are connected with gastric or digestive irritation, to be thus induced, which is more than problematical; especially as most of them are neither pustular nor vesicular, and therefore not accompanied by any sensible exudation.

b. *Second period of Infancy or first Dentition.*—This period embraces the whole time of dentition, and is considered to include the age between seven months and two years. In it the external senses are in great activity, and continually furnishing to the intellect the means from without for its development. The internal sensations are likewise active. From these united causes, as well as from the improved cerebral organization, the intellect is more strengthened during this period than perhaps during any other. The senses are continually conveying information; perception is, therefore, most active,—as well as memory; whilst imagination and judgment are feeble and circumscribed. The faculty of imitation is strong, so that, by hearing the spoken language, and appreciating its utility, the child endeavours to produce similar sounds with its own larynx, and gradually succeeds,—the greater part of its first language consisting of imitations of sounds emitted by objects, which sounds are applied to designate the object itself, in the manner we have seen elsewhere. The affective faculties are likewise unfolded during this period, but generally those of the selfish cast are predominant, and require the most careful attention for their rectification. Even at this early time of life, the effect of a well-adapted education is striking, and spares the child from numerous inconveniences, to which unlicensed indulgence in its natural passions would inevitably expose it. The general feeling is, that the infant is not yet possessed of the necessary intelligence to pursue the course that is indicated; but it is surprising how soon it may be made to understand the wishes of its instructor, and with what facility it may be moulded, at this tender age, in almost any manner that may be desired. During this period the child is capable of standing erect and of walking. Previous to this, these actions were impracticable, for the reasons already stated, as well as owing to the weight of the thoracic and abdominal viscera,—to the spine having but one curvature, the convexity of which is backwards,—to the small size of the pelvis, and its inclination forwards, so that it scarcely supports the weight of the abdominal viscera, and to the smallness of the lower limbs and to the feebleness of their muscles, which are insufficient to prevent the trunk from falling forward. These imperfections are, however, gradually obviated, and the child commences to support itself on all-fours; a position assumed much more easily than the biped attitude, owing to the centre of gravity being situate low, and the base of sustentation large. In this attitude he moves about for some time, or his locomotion is effected by pushing a chair before him, or by being steadied by his nurse. Gradually he passes from place to place on his feet, by laying hold of surrounding objects, and, in proportion as the bones and muscles become developed, and the obstacles to progression are removed, he succeeds in walking alone; but it is some time before he is capable

of running or leaping. Perhaps the average period at which the difference in this respect. When once he is fairly on his legs, infant begins to walk, is about twelve months; but we see great the whole of his waking hours is spent in incessant activity and amusement. His functions of expression are commensurate with his intellectual developement, which we have seen is great in this period. Sleep, which is now more interrupted, is still imperiously and frequently demanded, the nervous system being devoid of that strength which it subsequently possesses, and therefore requiring repose.

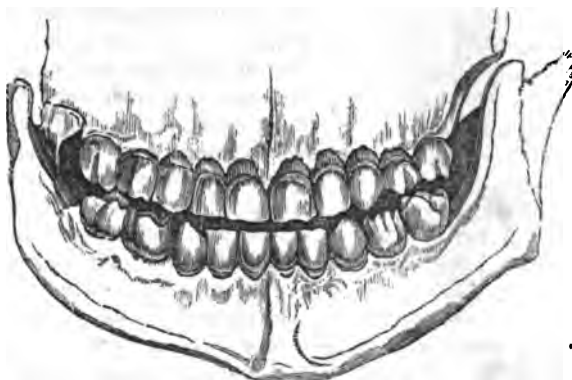
One of the most important changes going on at this age concerns the function of digestion. This is the process of *dentition*, which usually commences about the seventh month, and continues till the end of the second year at least. Prior to the appearance of the teeth, mastication is of course impracticable; and the food best adapted for the delicate powers of the infant is that afforded by the maternal breast, or a substitute which resembles it as closely as possible. The appearance, however, of teeth would seem to indicate, that the infant is about to be adapted for more solid aliment. As early as the second month of utero-gestation, if the jaws be carefully examined, the germs of the teeth are perceptible in their substance, under the form of membranous follicles of an oval shape, attached by their deep-seated extremity to a vascular and nervous pedicle, and by their superficial extremity to the gum. The cavity of these follicles is at first filled with a colourless limpid fluid; but a kind of vascular and nervous papilla or pulp soon forms in it, which commences at the deep-seated portion of the follicle, proceeds towards the other extremity, and ultimately fills it,—the fluid diminishing in proportion to the increase of the pulp. About the termination of the third month ossification begins, and a little sooner in the lower than in the upper jaw. This consists, at first, in a deposition of ivory matter on the surface of the pulp and at its top, which goes on increasing in width until it covers the whole of the dental pulp with a shell of bone. It augments, also, in thickness at the expense of the dental pulp, which becomes gradually less and less. When the bony shell has extended as far as the neck of the tooth, the external membrane or sac of the tooth—for the follicle consists of two membranes—attaches itself closely, but not by adhesion, to the part. The inner membrane becomes much more vascular, and the *enamel* is secreted by it. A thickish fluid is observed to be poured out from the inner surface, which is soon consolidated into a dark, chalky substance, and afterwards becomes white and hard.

At birth, the coronæ of the incisors are formed; those of the canine are not completed; and the molares have only their tubercles. The root or fang is formed last of all. As ossification proceeds, the corona of the tooth presses upon the gum, a portion of the follicle being interposed, which, as well as the gum, is gradually absorbed and the tooth issues.

The age at which the teeth make their appearance varies. Occasionally, children have been born with them, whilst in other cases they have not pierced the gum until after the period we are consider-

ing. Generally, the middle incisors of the lower jaw appear about the seventh month, and subsequently those of the upper jaw; next the inferior and superior lateral incisors in succession; then the first lower molares, and the first upper; next the inferior and superior canine teeth, successively; and lastly, the second molares of each jaw. The approximate times of their appearance are thus estimated by Mr. Thomas Bell.\*

Fig. 348.



Front view of the Temporary Teeth.

From five to eight months, the four central incisors.

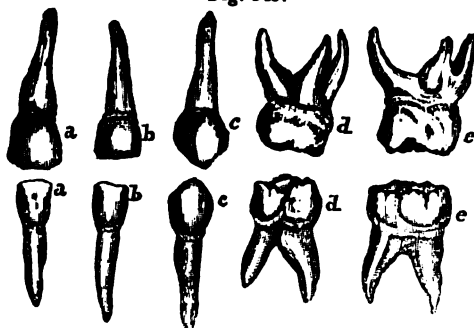
From seven to ten, the four lateral incisors.

From twelve to sixteen, the four anterior molares.

From fourteen to twenty, the four canine.

From eighteen to thirty-six, the four posterior molares.<sup>b</sup>

Fig. 349.



The separate Temporary Teeth of each jaw.

a. Central incisor. b. Lateral incisor. c. Canine. d. First molar.  
e. Second molar.

The subject of the intimate anatomy and development of the teeth has been investigated of late years by many observers, whose contributions are well worthy of study. Amongst the most important are those of Fränkel, Raschkow, Retzius, Arnold, Goodsir,<sup>c</sup> Owen, and Nasmyth;<sup>d</sup> and a recent writer has remarked,

\* The Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Teeth, Lond. 1829. See, also, Dr. Ashburner, Lectures on Dentition, Med. Gaz., 1833-34.

<sup>b</sup> See M. Trousseau, Gaz. Méd. de Paris, 4 Fév. 1842; and Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences, July, 1842, p. 165.

<sup>c</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ., li. See, also, for an account of his views, Carpenter, Human Physiology, § 632, Lond. 1842.

<sup>d</sup> J. Müller, Elements of Physiology, by Dr. Baly, p. 391, and part iv., chap. 2, appendix; and Nasmyth, Researches upon the Development and Structure of the Teeth, London, 1839 and 1841; Mr. Robert Nasmyth, in Lond. and Edinb. Monthly Journal of Med. Science, Jan. 1843, p. 40; and R. Owen, Odontography, part i., Lond. 1840. See, also, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., July, 1839, p. 158, and Oct. 1841, p. 491.

Fig. 350.



Vertical Section of an Adult Bicuspid, cut from without inwards; magnified four times.

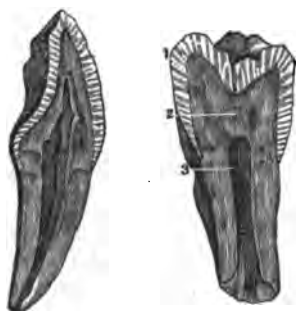
1. 1. Cortical substance which surrounds the root up to the commencement of the enamel. 2. 2. Ivory of the tooth, in which are seen the greater parallel curvatures, as well as the position of the main tubes. 3. 3. Apex of tooth, where the tubes are almost perpendicular. 4. 4. Enamel. 5. 5. Cavity of the pulp, in which are seen, by means of the glass, the openings of the tubes of the dental bone.

that in no organs have the results of recent microscopic researches been so unexpected or so brilliant.\* These researches have shown the teeth to be composed of three main constituents. 1. The *crusta petrosa*, which differs in its minute structure in no respect from common osseous tissue. It forms the outermost layer of the teeth, visibly surrounds the whole fang, and extends, according to Mr. Nasmyth, in a very thin layer over the enamel of the crown. 2. The *enamel*, which invests only the crown of the teeth, and is composed of solid prisms or fibres about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch in thickness set side by side upright on the ivory; and, 3. The *dentine* or *ivory*, which forms the chief mass and body of the teeth, and is composed of a fibrous basis, traversed by very fine, branching, cylindrical tubuli, which run in an undulating course from the pulp cavity, on the interior of which they open, towards the adjacent part of the exterior of the tooth. The basis of the intertubular substance, according to Henle, is composed of bundles of flat, pale, granular fibres, the course of which is parallel to that of the tubules.

Dentition is necessarily a physiological process, but it is apt to be a cause of numerous diseases. The whole

period of its continuance is one of great nervous susceptibility,—so that the surgeon never operates during it, unless when compelled, and we can understand, that the pressure exerted by the tooth on the gum, and the consequent inflammation and irritation, may lay the foundation for numerous diseases. More are doubtless ascribed to the process than it is entitled to, but still they are sufficiently numerous; and all require in their management the free division of the distended gum, so as to set the presenting part of the tooth at liberty. Whilst the teeth are appearing, the muscular structure of the body generally is acquiring strength, and the salivary organs are described by anatomists as becoming much more developed. The food of the child is now diversified, and it begins to participate in the ordinary diet

Figs. 351 and 352.



View of an Incisor and of a Molar Tooth, given by a Longitudinal Section, showing that the Enamel is striated and that the Striae are all turned to the Centre. The internal Structure is also seen.

1. Enamel. 2. Ivory. 3. Cavity pulpi.

of the table. The excrementitious matters are consequently altered

\* Mr. Paget, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., July, 1842, p. 270.



in their character, particularly the alvine, which become firmer, and acquire the ordinary fecal smell; the urea is still, however, in the generality of cases, in less proportion than in the adult. The other functions require no particular mention.

The number of deaths, during this period, is great. The bills of mortality of London, as has been elsewhere remarked, show, that the deaths, under two years of age, are nearly thirty per cent. of the whole number. In Philadelphia, during a period of twenty years ending with 1826, the proportion was rather less than a third. The cholera of infants is the great scourge of our cities during the summer months, whilst in country situations it is comparatively rare; and it is always found to prevail most in crowded alleys, and in the filthiest and impurest habitations. There is something in the confined and deteriorated atmosphere of a town, which seems to act in a manner directly unfavourable to human life, and to the life of the young especially. This is not confined to man. It is applicable also to the animal. Experiments were instituted by Dr. Jenner, and since him by Dr. Baron,<sup>a</sup> which show that a privation of free air and of their natural nourishment has a tendency to produce disorganization and death. Dr. Baron placed a family of young rabbits in a confined situation, and fed them with coarse green food, such as cabbage and grass. They were perfectly healthy when put up. In about a month, one of them died,—the primary step of disorganization being evinced by a number of transparent vesicles on the external surface of the liver. In another, which died nine days after, the disease had advanced to the formation of tubercles in the liver. The liver of a third, which died four days later, had nearly lost its true structure, so completely was it pervaded by tubercles. Two days afterwards, a fourth died; a number of hydatids was attached to the lower surface of the liver. At this time, Dr. Baron removed three young rabbits, from the place where their companions had died, to another situation, dry and clean, and to their proper accustomed food. The lives of these were obviously saved by the change. He obtained similar results from experiments of the same nature performed on other animals.<sup>b</sup>

*c. Third period of Infancy.*—This requires no distinct consideration;—the growth of the child and activity of the functions going on as in the preceding period, but gradually acquiring more and more energy. Within this period, a third molar tooth appears, which is not, however, temporary, but belongs to the permanent set.

During the whole of infancy, the dermoid texture—both skin and mucous membranes—is extremely liable to be morbidly affected; hence, the frequency of eruptive diseases, and of diarrhœa, aphthæ, croup, bronchitis, &c., many of which are of very fatal tendency. Owing, also, to the susceptibility of the nervous system, convulsions, hydrocephalus, and other head affections are by no means infrequent.

<sup>a</sup> Delineations of the Origin and Progress of various changes of Structure which occur in Man, and some of the inferior Animals, Lond. 1828.

<sup>b</sup> See the author's Human Health, p. 116, Philad. 1844; and art. Longevity, in American Quarterly Review, viii. 389, Philad. 1830.

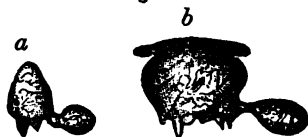
## 2. CHILDHOOD.

Childhood may be considered to extend from the seventh to the fifteenth year, or to the period of puberty; and it is particularly marked by the *shedding* of the first set of teeth, and the appearance of the second. It is manifest, that in the growth of the jaws with the rest of the body, the teeth, which, for a time, may have been sufficient in magnitude and number, must soon cease to be so; hence, the necessity of a fresh set, which may remain permanently. The process for the formation of the permanent teeth is similar to that of the milk or temporary teeth; yet it presents some remarkable points of difference; and it affords us another surprising instance of the wonderful adaptation of means to definite objects, of which we have so many in the human body.

This process is well described by Mr. Bell,\* whose opportunities for observation have been unusually numerous, and whose zeal and ability in his profession, as well as in the prosecution of natural science, are well known.

The rudiments of the permanent teeth are not original, and independent, like those of the temporary.

Fig. 353.



a. Permanent Rudiment given off from the Temporary in an Incisor.

b. Permanent Rudiment given off from the Temporary in a Molaria.—(T. Bell).

They are derived from the latter, and continue, for a considerable time, attached to, and intimately connected with them. At an early period in the formation of the temporary teeth, the investing sac gives off a small process or bud, containing a portion of the essential rudiments, namely, the pulp covered by its proper membrane. This constitutes the rudiment of the permanent tooth. It commences in a small thickening on one side of the parent sac, which gradually becomes more and more circumscribed, and at length assumes a distinct form, though still connected with it by a pedicle. For a time, the new rudiment is contained within the same alveolus as its generator, which is excavated by the absorbents for its reception. It is not, according to Mr. Bell, in consequence of the pressure of the new rudiment upon the bone, that this absorption is occasioned, but by a true process of anticipation; for he states, that he has seen, in the human subject—and still more evidently in the foal—the commencement of the excavation before the new sac was formed, and, consequently, before any pressure could have taken place on the parietes of the socket. The absorption does not, indeed, begin in the smooth surface of the socket, but in the cancelli of bone immediately behind it. By degrees, a small recess is thus formed in the paries of the alveolus, in which the new rudiment is lodged, and this excavation continues to increase with the increasing size of the rudiment; whilst, at the same time, the maxillary bone becomes enlarged, and the temporary tooth, advancing in its formation, rises in the socket. The new cell is thus gradually separated from the other,

\* *The Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Teeth.* Lond. 1829; 2d Amer. edit., Philad. 1837.

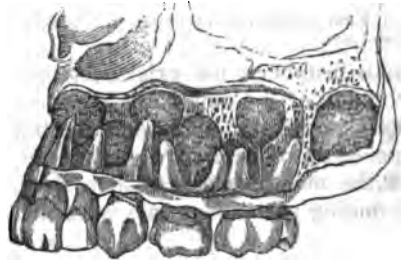
both by being itself more and more deeply excavated in the substance of the bone, and also by the formation of a bony partition between them, as seen in the marginal figure, 354, which exhibits the connexion between the temporary tooth and the permanent rudiment, as it exists after the former has passed through the gum. As the temporary tooth grows and rises in the jaw, the connecting cord or pedicle elongates, and although the sac, from which it is derived, is gradually absorbed, it still remains attached to the neck of the temporary tooth. The situation of each permanent rudiment, when its corresponding temporary tooth has made its appearance through the gum, is deeper in the jaw and a little behind the latter, as represented in the marginal illustrations, (Figs. 355 and 356,) of the upper and lower jaw after the whole of the temporary teeth have passed through the gum. From these, it will be understood, how the upper part of the sac of the permanent rudiment being, by means of the cord connected with the gum, gradually assumes the same relation to the gum as was originally sustained by the temporary rudiment.

Fig. 354.



*Temporary Tooth and Permanent Rudiment.—(T. Bell.)*

Fig. 355.

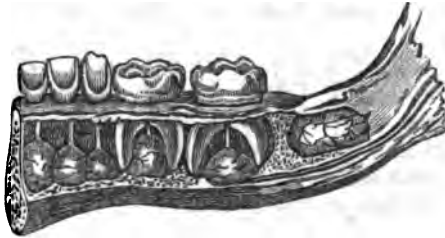


*Temporary Teeth and Permanent Rudiments.—(T. Bell.)*

The ossification of the permanent teeth commences from the third to the sixth month after birth,—for the incisors and first molaris; about the ninth month, for the canine teeth; about three years, for the second molaris; at three years and a half, for the fourth; and, at ten years, for the fifth; but all this is liable to much variation.

The permanent teeth, during their formation, are crowded together in the jaw; but, as soon as they have advanced to a certain point, and can no longer be contained within their own alveoli, absorption of the anterior parietes of those cavities takes place, and the teeth are allowed to come in some measure forwards. In consequence of such absorption, it frequently happens, that not only the socket of the corresponding temporary tooth, but that of the tooth on each side is opened to the permanent one. Absorption now occurs in the root of the temporary tooth,—generally at the part nearest its successor, and this gradually proceeds as the latter advances, until the root is com-

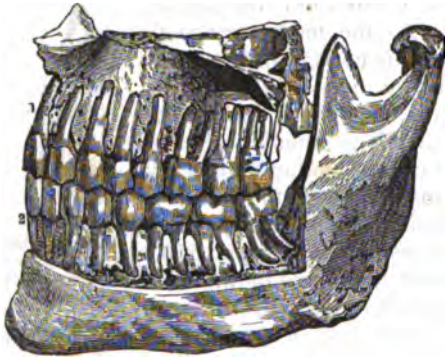
Fig. 356.



*Temporary Teeth and Permanent Rudiments.—(T. Bell.)*

pletely removed, when the crown falls off, leaving room for the permanent tooth to supply its place. It does not seem, that this absorption of the root is produced by pressure on the part of the permanent tooth, as it often happens, according to Mr. Bell, that the root of the temporary tooth is wholly absorbed, and the crown falls out spontaneously, long before the succeeding tooth has approached the vacant space. As a general rule, however, the actions must be regarded consentaneous; and Mr. Bell thinks, that this absorption resembles that, already referred to, for the formation of a new cell to receive the permanent pulp, and that it may be termed, like it, a "process of anticipation." In both instances, the existence, though not the pressure, or even the contact, of the new body is necessary to excite the action of the absorbent vessels; and we, accordingly, find, that in those cases, by no means unfrequent, in which the temporary teeth retain their situation in the mouth, with considerable firmness, until adult age, the corresponding permanent ones have not been formed.

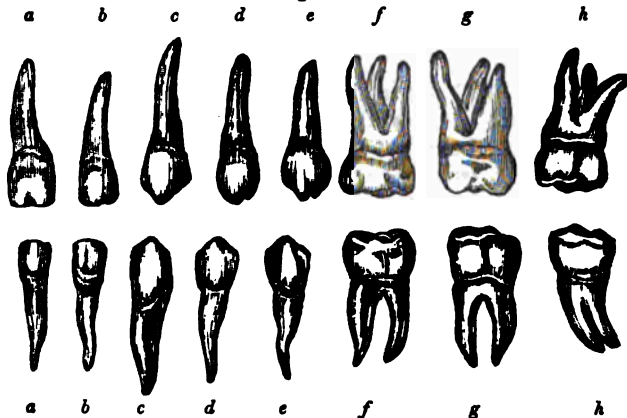
Fig. 357.



Side View of Upper and Lower Jaw, showing the Teeth in their Sockets. The outer Plate of the Alveolar Processes has been taken off so as to expose the Fangs of the Teeth and show the kind of Articulation and relative Position of each.

1. First incisores of upper jaw. 2. First incisores of lower jaw.

Fig. 358.



Upper and Lower Teeth.

a, a. Central incisores. b, b. Lateral incisores. c, c. Canine teeth. d, d. First bicuspidati. e, e. Second bicuspidati. f, f. First molares. g, g. Second molares. h, h. Third molares or dentes sapientia.

The following are the periods at which the permanent teeth gene-

rally make their appearance. They are extremely irregular, however, in this respect: the estimate must, consequently, be regarded as a general approximation only.

Anterior or first great molares, . . . . .	6½ years.
Middle incisors, . . . . .	6
Lateral incisors, . . . . .	8
Anterior bicuspsids, or first lesser molares, . . . . .	9
Posterior bicuspsids, or second lesser molares, . . . . .	10
Canine teeth, . . . . .	11 or 12
Second great molares, . . . . .	12 or 13
Third great molares or <i>dentes sapientia</i> , . . . . .	17 to 20

When these have all appeared, the set is complete, consisting of thirty-two teeth, sixteen in each jaw,—the number of temporary teeth having been only twenty. Fig. 357 represents the upper and lower permanent teeth in their alveoli or sockets, the external alveolar plate having been removed to show the mode in which they are articulated. Fig. 358 represents the same teeth when removed from the socket.

While the jaws are becoming furnished with teeth and increasing in size, they undergo a change of form, and the branches become more vertical, so as to favour the exertion of force during mastication. When the teeth issue from the gums, they are most favourably situate for the act of mastication; the incisors are sharp, the canine pointed, and the molares studded with conical asperities; but, in the progress of age, they become worn on the surfaces which come in constant contact.

During the occurrence of these changes, which embrace the whole of the period we are considering, and extend, at times, into the two next, the animal functions, especially that of sensibility, becomes surprisingly developed, and the intellectual and moral results of a well adapted system of education are strikingly apparent. The nutritive functions are, likewise, performed with energy, the body not yet having attained its full growth; and, towards the end of the period, the organs of reproduction commence that developement, which we have to describe under the next period.

The teeth appear with sufficient regularity to permit some inference to be drawn with regard to the age of the individual, and accordingly it has been proposed by Mr. Saunders\* to make them a test for age in reference to the children employed in the factories of Great Britain.

### 3. ADOLESCENCE.

The commencement of this age is marked by one of the most extraordinary developements, which the frame experiences, and its termination by the attainment of full growth in the longitudinal direction. The period of the former of these changes is termed *puberty*; that of the latter the *adult age*.

The age of adolescence has been considered to extend from fifteen years to twenty-five, in men; and from fifteen to twenty-one, in

\* The Teeth, a Test for Age, considered with reference to the Factory Children. Addressed to the Members of both Houses of Parliament. Lond. 1837.

women; but this is only an approximation, like the other divisions of the ages, all of which are subject to great fluctuation in individual cases.

During the periods we have already considered, no striking difference exists between the appearance of the male and female, except as regards the generative organs; but, about the age of puberty, essential changes occur, that modify the characteristics of the two sexes in a manner, which they maintain through the remainder of existence; and these changes affect the whole of the economy to a greater or less degree. In the male, the skin loses more or less of its delicacy and whiteness; the hair becomes darker, the cellular tissue condensed, and the muscles more bulky, so that they are strongly marked beneath the surface; the beard appears, as well as hair upon the pubes, chest, and in the axillæ. The different parts of the body become developed in such manner that the centre of the frame now falls about the pubes. The encephalon has increased in size, and has become firmer. The ossification of the bones, in the direction of their length, terminates towards the end of the period. The muscles become more red and fibrinous, losing the gelatinous character they previously possessed, and, in the animal, exhibiting those striking changes which we see—from veal to beef, from lamb to mutton, &c. The larynx undergoes great augmentation, and the glottis particularly is elongated and widened. The jaws complete their growth, and the *dentes sapientiæ* appear so as to make up the full complement of sixteen teeth in each jaw. The changes in the nutritive organs are not great, consisting chiefly in their developement to correspond with the increased size of the frame. The greatest modification is produced in the organs of reproduction, which are now in a state to exercise their important functions. The testicles, at the period of puberty, suddenly enlarge so as to attain twice the diameter they previously possessed; and the secretion of sperm is accomplished. The penis is also greatly increased in size; and, according to Adelon,\* “becomes susceptible of erection.” The susceptibility, however, exists long before this age. It may be noticed even in the first period of infancy. The scrotum assumes a deeper colour. Such are the chief changes that supervene in the male.

In the female, they are not quite so striking;—the general habit remaining much the same as during childhood. The skin preserves its primitive whiteness; and, instead of the cellular tissue becoming more condensed, and the muscles more marked, as in the male, fat is deposited in greater quantity between the muscles, so that the form becomes more rotund. New hair appears on the organs of reproduction and in the axillæ, whilst that of the head begins to grow more rapidly. The developement of the genital organs is as signal as in the male. The ovaries attain double their previous dimensions; the uterus enlarges; and a secretion takes place from it which has been elsewhere described—the *menstrual flux*; the *mons veneris* and labia pudendi are covered with hair; the labia enlarge and the pelvis has

\* *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 448, Paris, 1839.

its dimensions so modified as to render labour practicable. At an early age, the long diameter of the brim is from before to behind; but it now assumes the opposite direction, or from side to side; and the bosom, which prior to this age, could scarcely be distinguished from that of the male, becomes greatly augmented; fat is deposited so as to give the mammæ their rotundity; the mammary gland is enlarged; and the nipple of greater size;—changes fitting the female for the new duties which she may be called on to exercise.

The functions undergo equally remarkable modifications, under the new and instinctive impulse which animates every part of animal life. The external senses attain fresh, and peculiar activity; the intellectual faculties become greatly developed, and this is the period during which the mental character is more modified and improved by education than any other. It embraces the whole time of scholastic application to the higher studies. Prior to the end of the period, the male youth enters upon the avocation which is to be his future support, and both sexes may become established in life in the new relations of husband and wife, and of parent and child. It is during this age that an indescribable feeling of interest and affection is experienced between individuals of the two sexes; and that the boldness of the male contrasts so strikingly with the captivating modesty of the tender female,—

“ That chastity of look, which seems to hang  
A veil of purest light o’er all her beauties.”

The muscles having acquired their strength and spring, the severer exercises are now indulged, and mechanical pursuits of all kinds,—military or civil,—are undertaken with full effect. The expressions participate in the altered condition of the mental and moral manifestations, and indicate vivacity, energy, and enthusiasm. The voice of the male acquires a new character, and becomes graver, for reasons assigned elsewhere; whilst that of the female experiences but slight modification. The nutritive functions of digestion, absorption, and respiration experience but little change; but nutrition, strictly so called, is evidently modified, from the difference which we notice in the developement and structure of the various organs. The muscles contain more fibrin; the blood is thicker and richer in globules; and the excretions manifest a higher degree of animalization. Urea has usurped the place of benzoic acid in the urine; and the cutaneous transpiration has lost its acidulous smell, and become rank and peculiar. Lastly, the sexual functions are now capable of full and active exercise, and appear to be intimately connected with the energy and developement of many parts of the economy. If the genital organs do not undergo the due change at puberty, or if the testes of the male or the ovaries of the female be removed prior to that age, considerable modification occurs. This is more manifest in the male, inasmuch as the ordinary changes, that supervene at puberty, are in him more marked than in the female. The removal of the testicles, prior to puberty, arrests those changes. The beard does not appear, nor the hair in the axillæ nor on the pubes, as in the entire

male; and if those animals in which the males are distinguished by deciduous horns, as the stag,—or by crests and spurs, as the cock,—be castrated before their appearance, such appendages never present themselves. If, however, they be castrated after puberty, they retain these evidences of masculine character. The eunuch, likewise, who becomes such after the appearance of the beard, preserves it, although to a less extent than usual. The developement of the larynx is arrested by castration, so that the voice retains, with more or less change, the treble of the period prior to puberty; and hence this revolting operation has been had recourse to for the sake of gratifying the lovers of music.

In the course of age, we find that, during the progressive evolution of the organs, one set will be liable to morbid affections at one period, and another set at another. In the early ages, the mucous membranes and the head are peculiarly liable to disease; and, at the period we are now considering, affections of the respiratory organs become more prevalent. It is, indeed, the great age for pulmonary consumption,—that fatal malady, which, it was supposed by Sydenham, destroys two-ninths of mankind. In the female, whose proper feminine functions do not appear at the due time, or are irregularly exercised, the commencement,—indeed the whole of this period,—is apt to be passed in more or less sickness and suffering.

#### 4. VIRILITY OR MANHOOD.

Hallé has divided this age into three periods,—*crescent, confirmed, and decrescant virility*. The *first* of these extends from the age of twenty-five to that of thirty-five in the male, and from twenty-one to thirty in the female; the *second* from thirty-five to forty-five in the male, and from thirty to forty in the female. Neither of these will require remark, the whole of the functions throughout this work,—when not otherwise specified,—being described as they are accomplished in manhood. Owing to the particular evolution of organs, however, the tendency is not now so great to morbid affections of the respiratory function. It is more especially the age for cephalic and abdominal hemorrhage; accordingly, apoplexy and hemorrhoidal affections are more frequent than at any previous period.

In *decrescant virility*,—in which Hallé comprises the period of life between forty and fifty in the female, and between forty-five and sixty in the male,—signs of decline are manifest. The skin becomes shrivelled and wrinkled; the hair is gray, or white and scanty; the teeth are worn at the top, chipped, loose, and many, perhaps, lost. The external senses, especially the sight, are more obtuse, partly owing to a change in the physical portions of the organ, so that powerful spectacles become necessary, and partly owing to blunted nervous sensibility. Owing to the same cause, the intellectual faculties are exerted with less energy and effect, and the moral manifestations are more feeble and less excitable. Locomotion is less active, owing to diminution in the nervous power, as well as probably to physical changes in the muscles, so that the individual begins to stoop,—the tendency of the body to bear forwards being too great for the extensor mus-



cles of the back to counteract. The expressions participate in the condition of the intellectual and moral acts, and are, consequently, less exerted than in former periods. The nutritive functions do not exhibit any very remarkable change, and will even remain active until a good old age. The functions of reproduction show the greatest declension, especially in the female. The male may preserve his procreative capabilities much longer than this period; but in the female the power is usually lost, the loss being indicated by the cessation of menstruation. After this, the ovaries shrivel, the uterus diminishes in size, the breasts wither, the skin becomes brown and thick, long hairs appear on the upper lip and chin, and all those feminine points are lost, which were previously so attractive. The period of the cessation of the menses is liable to many different disorders, which are the source of much annoyance, and are, at times, attended with fatal consequences. Prior to their total disappearance, they often become extremely irregular in their recurrence, sometimes returning every fortnight, debilitating by their frequency, and by the quantity of the fluid lost, and laying the foundation, in many cases, for uterine or other diseases of a serious character. Cancerous affections of the mammæ or labia, which had been previously dormant or not in existence, now arise or become developed, and at times with extreme rapidity. In consequence of the great liability to such affections, this has been called the *critical age*, *critical period* or *critical time of life* or *turn of life*. The danger to the female is not, however, so "critical" at this period as the epithet might suggest,—the statistical researches of De Chateauneuf and of Lachaise, Finlaison,<sup>a</sup> and others having shown, that between the ages of forty and fifty no more women die than men.<sup>b</sup> M. Constant Saucerotte has, indeed, attempted to show by statistics on a great scale, that the mortality amongst women is greater between the ages of thirty and forty than between forty and sixty; and Muret, in his statistics of the Pays du Vaud, did not find between forty and fifty a more critical age than between ten and twenty.<sup>c</sup>

##### 5. OLD AGE.

This is the age when every thing retrogrades. It is the prelude to the total cessation of the functions, where the individual expires—which is but rarely the case,—from pure old age. This period has been divided into three stages:—*incipient* or *green old age*, reaching to seventy years; *confirmed old age* or *caducity*, to eighty-five years; and *decrepitude*, from eighty-five years upwards.

In *incipient* or *green old age*, the declension, which had occurred in the period of *decrecent virility*, is now more evident. The intellectual and moral manifestations exhibit more marked signs of feebleness; and the muscular powers totter, and require the aid of a support,

<sup>a</sup> Reports on the Evidence and Elementary Facts on which the tables on Life Annuities are founded, Lond. 1829.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. D. Davis, in Principles, &c., of Obstetric Medicine, i. 290, Lond. 1836.

<sup>c</sup> Churchill, Outlines on the Principal Diseases of Females; Dunglison's American Medical Library edit., p. 82, Philad. 1839; or Professor Huston's 2d Amer. edit., Philad. 1846.

—as well to convey a part of the weight of the body to the ground, as to enlarge the base of sustentation. The muscles of the larynx participate in this general vacillation; the

"Big manly voice,  
Turning again towards childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in the sound,"

and is broken and tremulous.

The appetite is great, and the powers of digestion are considerable; but mastication is largely deteriorated. In the first place, the teeth fall out, in consequence of the constant deposition of fresh layers in

Fig. 359.



*Skull of the Aged.*—(Sir C. Bell.)

the dental cavities, which ultimately close them, and obliterate the vessels that pass to the internal papillæ for their nutrition. As soon as the teeth have fallen out, the alveolar processes, which supported them, waste away by absorption, and the depth of the jaw is thus greatly lessened. On these accounts, the jaws only approach each other at the forepart; the chin projects, and the angle of the jaw is thrown more forward. As the teeth and

the sockets disappear, the alveolar margins become thin and sharp, and the gum hardens over them; the chin and nose necessarily approach (Figs. 359 and 360), the lips fall in, and the speech is inarticulate. We can thus understand the peculiarities of the mastication of the aged. They are compelled to bite with the anterior portions of the jaws; for which reason, as well as owing to the greater obliquity of the insertion of the levator muscles of the lower jaw, but little force can be exerted; and owing to the too great size of the lips, the saliva cannot be retained. Respiration is not as readily accomplished, partly owing to the complete ossification of the cartilages of the ribs, but chiefly to diminished muscular powers. The valves of the heart and many of the blood-vessels, especially of the extremities, become more or less ossified, and the pulse is somewhat slow and intermittent, but generally perhaps faster than in the adult. Of 255 women—between the ages of 60 and 96—examined by MM. Hourmann and Dechambre—the average number of pulsations in the minute was 82.20; of respirations, 21.79. Nutrition is effected to such a degree only as to keep the machine in feeble action; and animal heat is formed to an inadequate extent, so that the individual requires the aid of greater extraneous warmth: in many cases, the powers of reproduction in the male are completely lost.

\* *Archiv. Général. de Médec.* 1825.

In *confirmed old age*, the debility of the various functions goes on augmenting. The mental and corporeal powers almost totter to their fall, and often a complete

state of dementia or dotage exists. Frequently, however, we are gratified to find full intellectual and moral enjoyment prevailing even after this period, with the possession of considerable corporeal energy. The author has had the honour to enjoy the friendship of two illustrious individuals of this country, who had filled the highest office in the gift of a free people, both of whom are now no more; each of these gentlemen exhibited, after the lapse of eighty-three summers, the same commanding intellectual powers and the same benevolence that ever distinguished them.

Fig. 360.



*Physiognomy of the Aged.*—(Sir C. Bell.)

In this stage, locomotion becomes more difficult; the appetite is considerable, and the quantity eaten at times prodigious, the digestive powers being incapable of separating the due amount of chyle from a quantity of aliment, which was sufficient in the previous ages. Difficulty, however, sometimes arises in defecation, the muscular powers being insufficient to expel the excrement. From this cause, accumulations occasionally take place in the rectum, which may require the use of mechanical means,—as injections, the introduction of an instrument to break them down, &c. Generation is, usually, entirely impracticable, erection being impossible; and during the whole of this and the next stage, the urinary organs are liable to disorder—irritability about the neck of the bladder, and incontinence of urine, being frequent sources of annoyance.

The density of the lungs, together with the quantity of blood they admit, diminishes with the progress of age; the thorax itself is gradually accommodated to the change; it becomes atrophied as the lungs are atrophied; it contracts as they contract, and the diminution in their vascularity, which is always in a ratio with their diminution in texture, shows the direct proportion between the weakened chemical power and the diminished mechanical forces. (Magendie, and MM. Hourmann and Dechambre.)

Finally, to this stage succeeds that of *decrepitude*, so well described by Shakespeare:

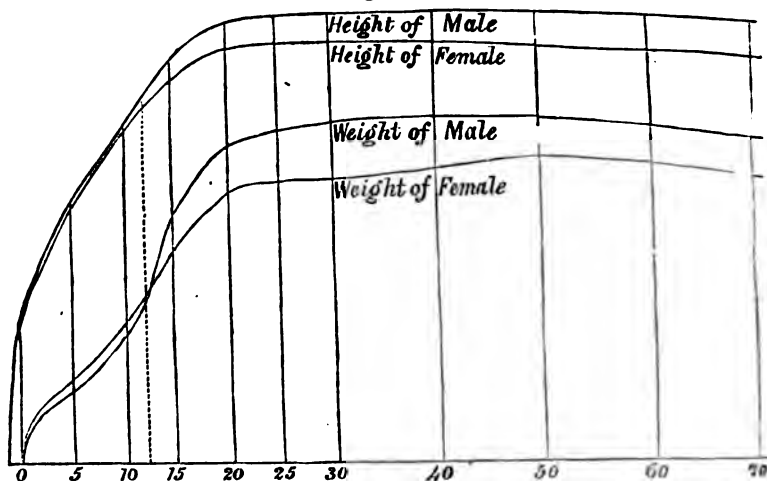
"Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange, eventful history,  
Is second childishness, and mere oblivion;  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing."

*As You Like It*, ii. 7.

The loss of power, mental and corporeal, becomes progressively greater; and, in addition to the abolition of most of the external senses—especially those of sight and audition—the intellectual faculties are, perhaps, entirely gone; all muscular motion is lost, and paralysis requires constant confinement to the bed, or to the easy chair; the excretions are passed involuntarily; sensibility becomes gradually extinct, and life finally flits away as imperceptibly as the twilight merges in the shades of night.

M. Quetelet,<sup>a</sup> has deduced from extensive observations the relative heights and weights of both sexes at different periods of existence. The results are exhibited in the subjoined diagram. (Fig. 361.) The increase in height is most rapid in the first year, and afterwards diminishes very gradually: between the ages of 5 and 16, the annual increase is very regular. The difference between the height of the male and female at birth continues to increase during infancy and

Fig. 361.



Curves indicating the development of the height and weight of male and female at different ages.—(Quetelet.)

growth; but it is not very marked until about the 15th year, after which the female grows at a diminished rate; whilst the male goes on in nearly the same degree until about the age of 19. The female, consequently, arrives at her full height earlier than the male;—the full height of the latter not being generally reached until about the age of 25. At about 50, both sexes experience a diminution of stature,

<sup>a</sup> *Annales d'Hygiène Publique*, vi. 89; and in his work, *Sur l'Homme, et le Développement de ses Facultés*, Bruxelles, 1835; or translation of the same, p. 63, Edinb. 1842.

which continues during the latter part of existence. The average height of the male and female who have attained their full development is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times those of the new-born infant of the sexes respectively. The relative weight of the sexes corresponds pretty nearly with the height. The preponderance exhibited by the male at birth increases gradually during the first few years; but towards the period of puberty the proportional weight of the female increases; and about the age of 12 there is but little difference between the sexes. After this, however, the weight of the male increases much more rapidly, especially between 15 and 20: subsequently, there is not much increase on the part of the male, although his maximum is not attained until the age of 40; whilst there is an absolute diminution on the part of the female, whose weight remains less during nearly the whole period of child-bearing. After this, however, her weight again experiences an increase, and its maximum is attained about 50. In old age, the weight of both sexes undergoes a diminution in nearly the same degree. The average weight of the male and female who have attained their full development is twenty times that of the new-born infant of the sexes respectively.\*

Such is a brief description of the chief changes that befall the body in the different ages. To depict them more at length would be inconsistent with the object and limits of this elementary work. It is clear, that, although the divisions, which we have adopted from Hallé, are entirely arbitrary,—must run into each other, and be liable to numerous exceptions,—certain well-marked changes occur about the commencement or termination of many of them, and singular diversity takes place in the successive evolution of organs: whilst some are predominant at one time, they fall behind others at a previous or subsequent period; and such changes may lay the foundation for morbid affections in certain organs at one age, which do not prevail at another. The ancients, who believed that great mutations occur at particular intervals,—every three, seven, or nine years, for example, as the particular number might be at the moment in favour,—compared these periods to knots uniting the different stages of life, and giving the economy a new direction. These knots they called the *climateric* or *climacteric years*, and they conceived the body to be especially liable to disease at the periods of their occurrence. The majority assigned them to the number seven and its multiples; and the fourteenth and twenty-first years especially were conceived to be replete with danger. Others applied the term *climacteric* to years resulting from the multiplication of seven with an odd number, and especially with nine; the sixty-third year being regarded, by almost all, as the *grand climacteric*. The error, with the ancients, lay, in considering that numbers exerted any agency. Every one admits the influence of particular evolutions on the health; and, at the present day, the word *climacteric* is generally restricted to certain periods of life, at which great changes supervene, independently of any numerical estimate of years;—such as the period of puberty in

\* Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 772, Lond. 1842.

both sexes;—that of the cessation of the menses, or the critical time of life in the female, &c.

It need hardly be remarked, that the different ages we have described, instead of extending through the protracted period of eighty-five years and upwards, may be varied by original constitution, climate, habits of life, &c., so that the stages may be shorter than usual, and all the signs of decrepitude occur many years earlier; and, on the other hand, the period of decrepitude may, through strength of original conformation, and other causes, be largely postponed.

## CHAPTER II.

### SLEEP.

THE difference between the two classes of animal and nutritive functions is strikingly exhibited in the phenomena we have now to consider. Whilst the former are more or less suspended, the latter continue their action with but little modification. The functions of sensibility, voluntary motion, and expression, cannot be indulged for any length of time, without fatigue being induced, and a necessity arising for the reparation of the nervous energy which has been expended during their action. After a time,—the length of which is somewhat influenced by habit,—the muscles have no longer power to contract, or the external senses to receive impressions; the brain ceases to appreciate; mental and moral manifestations are no longer elicited; the whole of the functions of relation become torpid, and remain in this state until the nervous system has been renovated, and adapted for the repetition of those functions, which, during the previous waking condition, had been exhausted. This state constitutes *sleep*; which, consequently, may be defined—the periodical and temporary suspension of all, or most, of those functions that connect us with the universe. The suspension occurs in those functions and in those only; and hence the consideration of sleep, in many physiological treatises, has immediately followed that of the functions of relation. The nutritive functions continue regularly in action from the earliest period of foetal formation; before mental manifestations exist in the embryo, and during sleep. For them there is no cessation, and scarcely any declension of activity, until the decadency of the frame affects them along with the whole of the machinery. Sleep, in the language of poetry, has been compared to death; and Dr. Good\* has stated, that the resemblance between them is not less correct upon the principles of physiology, than it is beautiful among the images of poetry. “Sleep is the death or torpitude of the voluntary organs, while the involuntary continue their accustomed actions. Death is the sleep or torpitude of the whole.” Physiologically, the difference appears to us considerable. During the whole of sleep a process of renovation is probably going on in the organs of animal life, which adapts them for subsequent activity, and contrasts signally

\* Book of Nature, ii. 226, Lond. 1826.

with the state of annihilation that constitutes death; hence the important difference between healthy sleep, and the state of coma induced by any morbid cause; from which the patient is aroused languid and exhausted, instead of active and recruited. The fœtus in utero is also described by some as being in a perpetual sleep, until aroused by the new actions established at birth; but it appears to us, that there must be, even in this case, alternations of activity and suspension in the nervous functions. We have seen elsewhere, that they are manifestly more or less exerted during intra-uterine existence; nervous energy must therefore be expended; and renovation,—to a much less extent, it is true, than in the new-born child,—be necessary. Linnæus,\* under the term *somnus plantarum*, expresses a peculiar state in the constitution of many plants during the night, as evinced by a change of position, generally a drooping or folding together of their leaves or leaflets; such a change being occasioned by the withdrawal of the stimulus of light, and, probably, it has been conceived, constituting a state of rest to their vital functions; but it is obvious, that there can be no similitude between this condition and that of the sleep of animals, which is confined to the functions of relation,—functions that do not even exist in the vegetable.

The approach of sleep is indicated by signs, that are unequivocal, and referable to the encephalon. The great nervous centre of animal life, feeling the necessity for rest and renovation, an internal sensation arises in it, as well as in the whole of the nervous system over which it presides, termed *sleepiness* or the *sensation* or *want* or *desire* of *sleep*, which, provided the waking state has been protracted, ultimately becomes irresistible, and often draws on sleep in spite of every effort to the contrary. It is affirmed, that boys, exhausted by exertion, dropped asleep amid the tumultuous noise of the battle of the Nile; and the fatigued soldier has often gone to sleep amid discharges of artillery. An engineer has been known to fall asleep within a boiler whilst his fellows were beating it on the outside with their heavy hammers. Noises will at first prevent sleep, but the desire is ultimately so invincible, that they cease to produce any effect. In the noisy inns of large towns, where the perpetual arrivals and departures of travellers keep up an incessant din and confusion, sleep may be for a time withheld, but it ultimately supervenes, although the tumult may be even tenfold; and if the noise should, from any cause, suddenly cease, the individual will probably awake. It is reported of the proprietor of some vast iron-works, who slept close to them, notwithstanding the noise of sledge-hammers, forges, and blast-furnaces, that he would immediately awake if any interruption occurred during the night. This effect of habit is seen in the infant, which has been accustomed to the cradle. The moment the motion and noise of the cradle, or the sound of the nurse's voice—if she have been in the custom of singing the child to sleep—ceases, it awakes.

When the desire for sleep sets in vigorously, the animal functions become more obtuse, until they progressively fail to be exerted. The

\* *Amenitat. Academ. tom. iv.*; and Choulant, in art. Schlaf, *Pierer's Anat. Phys. Real Wörterb. vii. 257*, Altenb. 1827.

cessation does not occur in all simultaneously. The power of volition is gradually lost over the muscles; the eyes cannot be kept open; the upper eyelid falls, and if we attempt to raise it again, it appears to be weighed down; the eyeball is directed upwards, and the pupil is contracted;<sup>a</sup> the arms fall where gravity would take them; the extensor muscles of the back, deprived of volition, cease to contract, and the head falls suddenly forward, occasioning *nodding*, which rouses the brain to momentary action, to be again lost, however. If the individual be in the erect attitude, his limbs bend under him; and if in the sitting posture, the head gradually falls upon the chest; the extensors of the trunk no longer contract with sufficient force to obviate its tendency to fall forwards; and the attitude, unsupported, cannot be maintained. The same gradual suspension occurs in the muscular movements concerned in speech and in the production of the voice, which becomes feeble, confused, broken, and ultimately lost. In short, all the strictly voluntary muscles have their action suspended,—the levator palpebræ superioris among the rest; and the eye is closed by the action of the orbicularis palpebrarum muscle, which is under the reflex system of nerves. If we determine to resist the desire for sleep, we yawn and stretch, for the reasons elsewhere assigned, and endeavour to arouse the functions to renewed activity. If the state of wakefulness have not been long protracted, we are successful; but all our endeavours fail, if the nervous system be so far exhausted as to render reparation indispensable. From the commencement of sleepiness, the action of the senses is enfeebled, and gradually suspended. The sight yields first, the closure of the eyelids preventing the organ from being impressed by its special irritant. The smell yields after the taste; the hearing after the smell; and lastly, the touch sleeps; although the appropriate irritants may continue to reach the organs of these senses. All the internal sensations, hunger, thirst, &c., as well as the morbid sensation of pain, are no longer appreciated. The intellectual and moral manifestations exhibit, from the commencement of the feeling of heaviness, the languor which pervades the frame. The will gradually ceases to control the functions that are under its dominion, until ultimately the power of volition is lost. In the less perfect kind of sleep, or in *slumber*, the ideas flit in a disorderly manner, constituting a kind of delirium; but when sleep is complete, the whole encephalic organ appears to be at rest, and perceptions are no longer accomplished: special irritants may be applied to the external senses, but they excite no sensation. Many physiologists affirm, that the internal functions of nutrition acquire more energy during sleep;<sup>b</sup> but Broussais<sup>c</sup> properly disputes the affirmation, and maintains, that the want of action in the senses, muscles, and intellect, must necessarily occasion diminished energy in the nutritive functions. During sleep, circulation and respiration appear to be retarded; perspiration is less active, and digestion more tardy than in the waking condition. The difference in the last respect is so great, that, as Broussais remarks, the appetite

<sup>a</sup> Mojon's *Leggi Fisiologiche*, &c., translated by Skene, p. 34, Lond. 1827.

<sup>b</sup> Mojon, *op. cit.*, p. 89, Lond. 1827.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. citat.* p. 183.



recurs many hours before the usual time where long watching is indulged, and an additional meal becomes necessary; proving the truth of the old French proverb,—“*qui dort dine*”—“who sleeps dines.” Secretion, nutrition, and calorification are also less energetically performed than usual. Absorption alone, according to some, is more active; but there seems not to be sufficient reason even for this assertion. This notion of the greater activity of the nutritive organs is as old as Hippocrates, and has been acquiesced in by almost all subsequent writers without examination, especially as it seemed to show a kind of alternation and equipoise between the respective periods of activity of animal and organic life.

If we examine into the condition of the nervous system during sleep, we find, that the division, which presides over sensation, volition, and the mental and moral manifestations—the animal functions, or those of relation, in other words—alone has its action temporarily suspended; whilst the vital and nutritive functions that are carried on under the reflex and sympathetic systems never sleep;—respiration, a phenomenon of reflex nervous action, never rests from the commencement of existence to its final cessation.

During sleep, then, all the animal functions are suspended, and the body generally remains in a state of semiflexion, the one which, as we have elsewhere seen, requires little natural effort. To this, however, there are numerous exceptions depending upon habit. The easiest position for the body is perhaps on the back. It is the one assumed in extreme debility, when the prostration is so great that the individual sinks down in the bed like a dead weight; but the extensor muscles of the thigh and leg, under such circumstances, become fatigued, and relief is obtained by drawing the feet upwards so as to elevate the knees. This is a common attitude in the most debilitating maladies, and is often maintained until within a short time prior to dissolution.

Sleep can persist with the exercise of certain muscles. Couriers, on long journeys, will nap on horseback; and coachmen on their boxes. The author has seen a servant boy erect and asleep in the intervals between the demand for his services at table.

During the first sleep, the suspension of the animal functions is the most complete; but, towards morning, some of them become less asleep, or more excitable than others. The intellectual and moral faculties are frequently inordinately active, giving occasion to dreams, which, with some individuals, occupy a great portion of the period allotted to rest. The sense of tact, too, is easily roused. If we lie in a position which is disagreeable, it is soon changed; the limbs are drawn away, if irritated in any manner; the bedclothes are pulled up, if the air be disagreeably cold, &c. The sense of sight and the voluntary motions are least readily aroused, so that those functions, which fall asleep the last, are most easily awakened, and they gradually resume their activity in the order in which they lost it. After six or eight hours of sleep,—more or less according to circumstances,—the individual awakes, not generally at once, however; a state of slumber, like that which preceded sleep, now succeeds it. The organs, which

are the last to resume their activity, require to be excited to the performance of their functions. The eyes are rubbed; stretching is indulged, which recalls the nervous influx to the muscles; and sighing and yawning arouse the muscles of respiration, and compensate, in some measure, for the minor degree of aeration of the blood accomplished during sleep. The urine is discharged, and the phlegm, which may have collected in the air-passages, is expectorated: these excretions have accumulated during sleep, because, owing to diminished sensibility, the call for their evacuation has not been as urgent. In cases of catarrh, accompanied by copious mucous secretion, and in phthisis pulmonalis, the fluid will collect in surprising quantity in the air-passages during sleep, and it is expectorated as soon as the brain is sufficiently aroused to respond to the sensation.

When the individual is fully awake, the energy, with which the animal functions are exercised, exhibits that the nervous system must have entirely recruited during its state of comparative inaction. The period of sleep, necessary for this purpose, varies in different individuals, and at different ages. Some require eight or ten hours; others not more than three or four; and others are said to have been contented, throughout the course of a long life, with not more than one or two. Men of active minds, whose attention is engaged in a series of interesting employments, sleep much less than the lazy and the listless. General Pichegru informed Sir Gilbert Blane<sup>a</sup> that in the course of his active campaigns he had, for a whole year, not more than one hour of sleep, on an average, in the twenty-four hours. The great Frederick of Prussia, and the yet more great Napoleon, are said to have spent a surprisingly short time in rest; but with respect to the latter, the fact is controverted by one,<sup>b</sup> who had excellent opportunities for observation. It is probable, that in these cases the sleep is more intense, and that such of the animal functions as require rest indispensably are completely suspended during the whole period consigned to it. These are the functions of voluntary motion more particularly; the intellectual and moral faculties requiring a much shorter period of repose, as is manifest by their incessant activity during dreaming,—a condition, which, with some, continues through almost the whole night. The same individual, too, will spend a shorter time in sleep, when strongly interested in any pursuit, than in the monotonous occurrences of ordinary life, and, when any subject occupies us intently, it will frequently keep us awake in spite of ourselves; but although the period of sleep may be protracted much beyond the accustomed hour by unusual excitation, the effect of the stimulus becomes insufficient, and sleep comes on under circumstances, which appear most unfavourable to it. The lunatic affords us a wonderful example of powerful resistance to sleep and fatigue, or rather of the short period, which is necessary for the renovation of the nervous system, kept almost incessantly upon the stretch, as it is, in many of these distressing cases. In like manner, the sufferer from ill health,

<sup>a</sup> Medical Logic, 2d edit. p. 83; see, also, Macnish, *Philosophy of Sleep*, Amer. edit. p. 35, New York, 1834; and Elliotson's *Human Physiology*, p. 602.

<sup>b</sup> Bourrienne, *Private Memoirs of Napoleon Bonaparte*, Amer. edit. Philad. 1831.

loss of property or kindred resists at times the recurrence of sleep to a degree that often surprises; and according to a recent writer<sup>a</sup> this want of sleep is the most frequent and immediate cause of insanity: on the other hand, a distinguished physiologist<sup>b</sup> regards too prolonged sleep as the cause of idiocy or madness. It has been a common remark, that women require more sleep than men, and Georget<sup>c</sup> assigns them a couple of hours more,—allotting to men six or seven hours, and to women eight or nine; but Dr. Macnish<sup>d</sup> judiciously doubts, whether the female constitution require more sleep than the male: at least, he says, it is certain, that women endure protracted wakefulness better than men, “but whether this may result from custom is a question worthy to be considered.” The fact is, however, too general to allow custom to be invoked. It would seem, indeed, that the female frame, although far more excitable than that of the male, is longer in having that excitability exhausted, and that the recuperative powers are greater, so that the excitability, when exhausted, is more readily restored. The notion, that the female needs more rest than the male, appears to be traditionary, and like most traditions, to have been handed down from one individual to another without due examination. The degree of muscular and of mental exertion, to which the male is accustomed, would seem to indicate that a longer period of rest ought to be required by him to admit of the necessary restoration of excitability.<sup>e</sup> In infancy and youth, where the animal functions are extremely active, the necessity for sleep is greatest; in mature age, where time is more valued and the cares are more numerous, it is less indulged; whilst the aged may be affected in two opposite ways; they may be either in a state of almost constant somnolency, or their sleep may be short and light.

Sleep has been divided by the physiologist into *complete*, and *incomplete*. The former is characterized by a suspension of all the animal functions; a state, the existence of which has been doubted by many. Certain it is, that it can occur but rarely, and only when all the organs have stood in equal need of rest and renovation; and when none have preserved, from the preceding state of waking, a peculiar susceptibility for action. The nearest approach to it occurs in the first hours of repose; after this, it becomes incomplete: some of the functions are not equally sound asleep, and consequently respond to excitants with different degrees of facility; and the various organs do not require the same time for reparation, and therefore awake at different intervals; hence dreams arise, which occur chiefly towards morning, or after the sleep has become incomplete; that is, when some of the animal functions are more or less actively, but irregularly exercised.

#### 1. DREAMS.

Anciently, dreams were regarded as supernatural phenomena,

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Brigham, *American Journal of Insanity*, for April, 1845, p. 319.

<sup>b</sup> Magendie, *Précis de Physiologie*, vol. ii. Paris, 1825.

<sup>c</sup> De la Physiologie du Système Nerveux, &c., Paris, 1821.

<sup>d</sup> Op. citat. p. 290.

<sup>e</sup> See, on the hygienic relations of Sleep, the Author's “*Human Health*,” p. 392 Philad. 1844.

under the control of the children of Somnus or Sleep,—Morpheus, Phobetor or Icelos, and Phantasos. These three children, according to Ovid,<sup>a</sup> were capable of transforming themselves into any shape; the employment of Morpheus being to counterfeit the forms of men; Phobetor imitated the likeness of brutes and objects of terror; and Phantasos that of inanimate creatures. For a long time dreams were supposed to reveal future events by types and figures; as when Hecuba dreamed she had conceived a firebrand, and Cæsar that he should lie with his mother; which was interpreted that he should enjoy the empire of the earth,—the common mother of all living creatures. Oneiromancy was an encouraged art, and ministered largely to the credulity and superstition of the people. Strange to say, there are yet those who look upon dreams to be typical and instructive, and consequently supernatural! Mr. Baxter<sup>b</sup> and Bishop Newton openly maintained this doctrine. They divided dreams into two kinds,—good and evil,—and conceived that two kinds of agents, good and evil spirits, are concerned in their production; they consequently accounted for the one or the other sort of dreams, according as the one or the other kind of agents obtain a predominancy.<sup>c</sup> It is not necessary to combat these views,—which ought of course to be as applicable to animals as to man,—especially as they are universally discarded. Dreaming is now properly considered to be an irregular action of the brain, in which the agency of the great controlling power of the will is suspended, and the memory and imagination are allowed unlimited sway, so that the most singular and heterogeneous ideas are formed,—still kept, however, somewhat in train by the force of association. At times, indeed, this influence is so great, that every part of the dream appears to go on in the most natural and consistent manner. We witness scenes that have occurred during our waking hours; and seem to see, hear, walk, talk, and perform all the ordinary offices of life. The mind reasons, judges, wills, and experiences all the various emotions. Generally, the whole process is confined to the brain; but, at times, the muscles are thrown into action, and the expression of the feelings and emotions occurs as in the waking state. The dreamer moves, speaks, groans, cries, sings, &c., and if the dream concern the generative function, the external organs respond, and emission takes place in the male to such an extent, occasionally, as to constitute a true disease, or to be the cause of such,—the *paroniria salax* of Good,<sup>d</sup> the *gonorrhœa dormientium*, or *night pollution* of others. During the prevalence of a passion, too, the nutritive organs, in which its effects are experienced whilst awake, may be equally concerned during sleep. The respiration is short and interrupted; and sighs, groans, or laughter, according to the character of the emotion, are elicited; the heart beats with more or less violence; and this state of excitement continues after the individual has been completely aroused. The *nightmare*, *ephialtes* or *incubus*

<sup>a</sup> Metamorphos. xi., v. 592 ad 645.

<sup>b</sup> An Inquiry into the Nature of the Human Soul, &c., Lond. 1730.

<sup>c</sup> Good's Book of Nature, ii. 13, Amer. edit., Bost. 1826.

<sup>d</sup> Physiological System of Nosology, cl. iv., ord. 1, gen. v., sp. 3.

affords us an example of suffering as intense as could well be experienced during our waking moments. A sensation of distressing weight is felt at the epigastrium, and of impossibility of motion, speech, or even respiration; the dreamer fancies that some horrible form, or some ferocious being is approaching him, and that all chance of escape is precluded; or that he is about to fall, or is falling, from a lofty precipice; and the anguish which he suffers is indicated by loud groans, or by such painful feelings, apparently in the organs to which the emotions are referred, that he awakes. The ideas, at these times, are even more vivid than during the waking condition; the perceptions that predominate not being detracted from by extraneous impressions. On many of these occasions, when we awake, the dream is fresh upon the memory; and by resigning ourselves again to slumber, we can at times recall it, should it be of an agreeable character, or dispel it altogether by rousing ourselves thoroughly.<sup>a</sup>

On account of the greater vividness of the ideas during sleep, and their freedom from all distraction, intellectual operations are sometimes effected in a surprising manner; difficulties being occasionally solved, which have obtained the mastery during waking. To a minor degree, every one must have experienced more or less of this. Composition, poetical or other, is often effected with the greatest facility; and a clue is occasionally afforded, which leads to the solution of previous difficulties. Cardan had a notion that he composed one of his works during sleep. Condillac, who attended greatly to this matter, remarked particularly, that, whilst engaged with his "*Cours d'Etude*," he frequently broke off a subject before retiring to rest, which he developed and finished the next morning according to his dreams. Condorcet saw in his dreams the final steps of a difficult calculation, which had puzzled him during the day; and Dr. Gregory, of Edinburgh, composed thoughts, and clothed them in words, which were so just in point of reasoning, and so good in point of language, that he used them in his lectures, and in his written lucubrations. Voltaire, Lafontaine, Franklin, Coleridge, and others, have made similar remarks; and events of the kind must have occurred, in some shape, to almost every one.<sup>b</sup> Dr. Good relates a singular instance which happened to a friend of his, who, amongst other branches of science, had deeply cultivated that of music, of which he was passionately fond. He was a man of irritable temperament, ardent mind, and most active and brilliant imagination; and "was hence," says Dr. Good,<sup>c</sup> "prepared by nature for energetic and vivid ideas in his dreams." On one occasion, during his sleep, he composed a very beautiful little ode, of about six stanzas, and set the same to very agreeable music, the impression of which was so firmly fixed in his

<sup>a</sup> See, on this subject, the experiments of M. Girou de Buzareingues, in *Magendie's Journal de Physiologie*, tom. viii.

<sup>b</sup> Dendy, *The Philosophy of Mystery*, p. 232, London, 1841; or Amer. edit., New York, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> *Book of Nature*, loc. cit. See, also, Abercrombie, *Inquiries concerning the Intellectual Powers*, Amer. edit. p. 234, New York, 1832; Macnish, *Philosophy of Sleep*, Amer. edit. p. 65, New York, 1834; and Elliotson's *Human Physiology*, p. 615, London, 1840.

memory, that, on rising in the morning, he copied from his recollection both the music and the poetry.

In these cases, the will must direct, more or less, the intellectual process. It is scarcely conceivable, that the train of reasoning could go on so connectedly and effectively by association alone. That the will can, in some degree, be kept awake, or in a condition susceptible of being readily aroused, is shown by the facility with which we awake at a determined hour, and exercise a degree of watchfulness during sleep; as well as by the facts, previously mentioned, regarding the courier who sleeps on his horse, or the coachman on his box.

One curious fact, occasionally observed in dreams and likewise in the Mesmeric condition, which is analogous, in many respects, to what is observed in dreaming, is the calling up of impressions, that have been made at an antecedent period, and that may have been entirely forgotten during the waking state. A well-known case of this kind is recorded in the books. A woman, during the delirium of fever, constantly repeated sentences unknown to her attendants, and which proved to be Hebrew and Chaldaic. Of these she knew nothing whatever on her recovery; but on referring to her previous condition, it appeared that she had formerly lived with a clergyman, who had been in the habit of reading aloud sentences in those languages, which had impressed her mind without her knowledge.

Dr. Dewar relates the case of a girl, who, when awake, discovered no knowledge of astronomy, or other sciences; but when asleep could define the rotations of the seasons, using expressions the most apt to the subject; and Mr. Dendy,\* alludes to the case of an Edinburgh lady, who, "during her somnolent attacks, recited somewhat lengthy poems;" and it was curious, that each line commenced with the final letter of the preceding.

There is a kind of dreaming, in which the sleep is less profound than during ordinary dreams; where the body has, consequently, more capability of receiving external impressions, but where the will has a certain degree of power over the muscles of voluntary motion, but imperfectly regulates the thoughts. This is *somnambulism* or *sleep-walking*. During the continuance of this state, the individual can apparently see, hear, walk, write, paint, speak, taste, smell, &c., and perform his usual avocations, yet remain in other respects so soundly asleep, that it is impossible to awake him without making use of violence. Cases are on record, and of an authentic nature, of individuals who have risen from bed asleep, with their eyes closed, and have not only walked about the room or house, going up or down stairs, finding their way readily and avoiding obstacles, but have passed with safety through very dangerous places, as windows, or on the roofs of houses. They have executed, too, yet more difficult feats; such as dressing themselves, going out of doors, lighting a fire, bathing, saddling and bridling a horse, riding, composing verses, &c., and executing all the actions of life correctly, and even acutely; yet they have been asleep during the whole of these acts. The eyes have

\* Op. cit. p. 305, London, 1841.

been shut, or if open, have been incapable of perceiving the brightest light held before them; and the iris has not exhibited its irritability by contracting, so that it is doubtful whether the ordinary functions of the eyes be generally executed during somnambulism; and the fact of the serious accidents, that occasionally befall the sleep-walker, is in favour of this conclusion. It must be remarked, however, that, in the opinion of some physiologists, the sight is awake and employed, and there are cases which strongly favour the idea. In these cases, the movements are regulated and co-ordinated; and if the cerebellum possess this function—as is generally believed—it must be awake.

A peculiarity of ordinary somnambulism is, that the train of thoughts is usually directed towards one point, and this so profoundly, that notwithstanding the activity of the imagination, and the firm hold it takes on the mind, no recollection is retained of the occurrences during sleep, after the individual awakes either spontaneously or by being aroused.

Animal magnetism\* would seem to be capable of inducing a peculiar kind of somnambulism, in which new faculties appear to be acquired, and intellectual operations to be executed, which are of the most astonishing character. The records of the *Académie Royale de Médecine*, of Paris, contain many such instances. A singular case of somnambulism is given by Dr. Belden, of Springfield, Vermont.<sup>b</sup> It occurred in a young female, 17 years of age, and the phenomena were attested by numerous observers. One striking circumstance in this case was the astonishingly developed impressibility of the eye. As an evidence of this, when Dr. Belden, in order to test the sensibility of that organ, took one evening a small concave mirror, and held it so that the rays, proceeding from a lamp, were reflected upon her closed eyelid; when the light was so diffused, that the outline of the illuminated space could scarcely be distinguished, it caused, the moment it fell on the eyelid, a shock equal to that produced by an electric battery. This female could see as well, apparently, when the eyes were closed as when they were open. The details of this case—and indeed of every case—of somnambulism are full of interest to the mental philosopher. Of late, the various experiments, at one time so much in vogue, when Mesmerism was in fashion,—have been repeated not only by those who are not in the ranks of the profession, but by certain estimable physicians; and of the reality of certain of the effects ascribed to the manipulations of the animal magnetizer we can entertain no doubt. The whole history of the art exhibits, that

\* See, on the subject of Animal Magnetism, Elliotson's Blumenbach, &c. p. 292, Lond. 1828; Elliotson's Human Physiology, p. 660, Lond. 1840; Isis Revelata, an Inquiry into the Origin, Progress, and Present State of Animal Magnetism, by J. C. Colquhoun, Esq., Edinb. 1836; Prichard, Treatise on Insanity, p. 410, London, 1835; Erfahrungen über den Lebensmagnetismus und Somnambulismus—Commissions-Bericht an die Königl. Med. Akademie zu Paris, von Husson; und Resultate der Praxis einiger Hamburger Aerzte, so wie des Verfassers, J. F. Siemers, Hamburg, 1835. See, also, Brit. and For. Med. Rev., April, 1839, p. 301; an interesting *resumé* by Prof. J. K. Mitchell, in Quarterly Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, for Aug., Sept., and October, 1843; and Dr. Forbes, Mesmerism True, Mesmerism False, Lond. 1845; and Brit. and For. Med. Rev. April, 1845, p. 428.

<sup>b</sup> American Journal of the Medical Sciences, No. xxviii.

impressible individuals may have irregularities of nervous distribution induced through the medium of the senses, especially through those of vision and touch,—and that somnambulism and hysteric sleep, with other phenomena referable to a like condition of the nervous system, may be engendered; but that there is any thing like a magnetic fluid or agent, which may be communicated from the magnetizer to the subject of his experiments, is not only not proved, but, in the author's opinion, by no means presumable. One of the most curious of the phenomena presented by this singular condition is the greatly developed sensibility to some irritants, and the total insensibility to others. Thus, the author has seen different persons bear without the slightest muscular action the application of a straw or feather to the conjunctiva; the insertion of pointed bodies into various parts of the cutaneous surface; the extraction of a tooth, &c., and yet start at the least puff of air made to come in contact with the face. Dr. Carpenter<sup>a</sup> considers, that these phenomena must be considered as still doubtful; but they have been so often witnessed as not to admit of disbelief. From what the author has himself seen, he can readily credit the statements affirmed on respectable testimony, that even the major operations of surgery may have been executed whilst the patient was in this state of *Mesmeric sleep*—if it may be so termed. As to the *Hellschen*, *clairvoyance*, “lucidity of vision,” said to have been possessed by the magnetized, could we assign our belief to it at all, it would be only on the ground,—“*credo quia impossibile est.*”

One of the most startling of recent announcements has been, that if one of the compartments of the skull, as mapped out by the phrenologist, be touched, whilst a person is in the Mesmeric state, he will immediately have his thoughts turned in the direction of the mental faculty, that corresponds with the particular phrenological organ, and exhibit manifestations thereof in his actions and speech. Some of the phenomena witnessed by the author have certainly been most strange; and at first sight were strongly confirmatory of a union between phrenology and magnetism, or of *phreno-magnetism*, and, therefore, of the truth of both. It has been sufficiently demonstrated, however, that where the person operated upon has had no previous acquaintance of any kind with phrenology, not the slightest manifestation can be elicited; and that by stating aloud, that the manipulator is about to touch a certain organ, whilst, in reality, he touches another, the thoughts and actions have been immediately made to correspond with the organ mentioned—not with the one over which the finger was placed.<sup>b</sup>

The causes of imperfect or incomplete sleep, and hence of dreams, are various. The fact, already referred to, of the different organs of the animal functions having their distinct periods of waking and rest, would induce us to suppose, that it ought not to be always equally profound and durable: yet there are individuals whose sleep is nearly complete throughout; but they are not many. The previous occu-

<sup>a</sup> *Human Physiology*, p. 231, Lond. 1842. It is proper to add, that in the second edition, Lond. 1844, Dr. Carpenter omits this remark.

<sup>b</sup> Mitchell, and Forbes, in op. cit. See, also, the author's *Medical Student*, new edit., p. 252, Philad., 1844.



pation of the sleeper exerts great influence. If it have been of a fatiguing nature, all the faculties rest equally long and soundly; but if the fatigue extend beyond the due point, a degree of excitability of the brain is left which renders it extremely liable to be aroused. In this way we understand why dreams should bear upon subjects that have long occupied the mind in its waking state,—the tension of the mind on those subjects having left considerable excitability, as respects them, and a disposition to resume them under the slightest irritation. The presence or absence of irritants—external or internal—exerts likewise a great effect on the soundness of sleep, and the formation of dreams. The stillness of the night and the absence of light are hence favourable to repose: the position, too, must be one devoid of constraint; and the couch soft and equable, and especially such as the individual has been accustomed to use. Sleep is impracticable in a badly made bed; and every one must have experienced the antiso-  
porific influence of a strange bed, the arrangement of which, as to size, pillows, &c., differs from that to which he has been habituated. It is not, however, by external irritants that the sleep is usually disturbed. The state of the system itself may react upon the brain, and give occasion to broken sleep, and to dreams of the most turbulent character. Irritations, existing in the viscera, are frequently the cause of dreams,—in children more especially; and a hearty supper, especially if of materials difficult of digestion, may bring on the whole train of symptoms that characterize nightmare. In like manner, any thing that impedes the action of the functions of respiration, circulation, &c., may occasion the wildest phantasies. All these internal impressions are more vividly perceived for the reasons already stated. The nervous system is no longer excited by the ordinary impressions from the external senses; and if the internal impressions be insufficient to prevent sleep altogether, they may excite dreams.

During this incomplete kind of sleep, the external sensations are not wholly at rest; particularly that of touch or tact, which, as it is the last to sleep, is the first to awake. Impressions made on it may excite the most exaggerated representations in the brain, in the shape of dreams. The bite of a flea appeared to Descartes the puncture of a sword: an uneasy position of the neck may excite the idea of strangulation: a loaded stomach may cause the sleeper to feel as if a heavy weight,—a house or castle, or some powerful monster,—were on his stomach. A person, having had a blister applied to his head, dreamed that he was scalped by a party of Indians. Moreau de la Sarthe gives the case of a young female, who, from the application of her cold hand against her breast, when asleep, dreamed that a robber had entered her apartment and had seized hold of her. Galen dreamed that he had a stone leg, and, on waking, found that his own was struck with paralysis. Mr. Dugald Stewart\* gives a similar case, to show how an impression made upon the body, during sleep, may call up a train of associated ideas, and thus produce a dream. A gentleman, (Dr. Gregory,) who, during his travels, had ascended a volcano, having occasion, in consequence of indisposition, to apply a

\* Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind, i. 335, 3d edit. Lond. 1808.

bottle of hot water to his feet when he went to bed, dreamed that he was making a journey to the top of Mount *Ætna*, and that he found the heat of the ground almost insupportable.<sup>a</sup> Sir Walter Scott<sup>b</sup> mentions an analogous instance, which was told him by the nobleman concerned. He had fallen asleep, with some uneasy feelings arising from indigestion, which brought on the usual train of visionary terrors. At length, they were all summed up in the apprehension, that the phantom of a dead man held the sleeper by the wrist, and endeavoured to drag him out of bed. He awoke in horror, and still felt the cold dead grasp of a corpse's hand on his wrist. It was a minute before he discovered that his own left hand was in a state of numbness, and that with it he had accidentally encircled his right arm.

If, again, the organ of hearing be wakeful, the dreamer may hear an individual speak to him and may reply; so that occasionally secret thoughts and feelings may be elicited. The author has himself replied several times connectedly in this manner; and he has been able to lead others, especially children,—whose sleep is often interrupted by the existence of irregular internal impressions,—to answer a few times in the same way.

It would seem that on the loss of any one sense, the dreams, after a lapse of time, will not refer to it. Darwin has given many instances of this. After blindness had long affected certain persons, they never dreamed that they saw objects in their sleep; and a deaf gentleman, who had talked with his fingers for thirty years, invariably dreamed of finger-speaking, and never alluded to his having dreamed of friends having conversed orally with him.<sup>c</sup>

In the explanation of the cause of dreaming, we have the most plausible application of the theory of Gall regarding the plurality of organs in the brain. Every explanation, indeed, takes for granted, that certain faculties are suspended whilst others are active. Gall's view<sup>d</sup> is that, during sleep, particular organs of animal life enter into activity; and hence, that the perceptions and ideas, which depend on these organs, awake; but, in such case, their activity takes place without any influence of the will;—that when one organ only is in activity, the dream is simple: the dreamer caresses the object of his affection; he hears melodious music, or fights his enemies, according as this or that organ is exercising its functions;—that the greater the number of organs in activity at the same time, the more confused or complicated will be the dream, and the greater the number of extravagancies;—that, when the organs are exhausted by watching and labour, we generally do not dream during the first hours of sleep, unless the brain is extremely irritable; but, in proportion as the organs get rid of their fatigue, they are more disposed to enter into activity, and hence, near the time for waking, we dream more, and with greater vivacity. "Dreaming, consequently," he concludes, "is

<sup>a</sup> Abercrombie's *Inquiries concerning the Intellectual Powers*, Amer. edit. p. 216, New York, 1832; and Elliotson's *Human Physiology*, p. 625, Lond. 1840.

<sup>b</sup> *Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft*, Amer. edit. p. 49, New York, 1830.

<sup>c</sup> Dendy, *The Philosophy of Mystery*, p. 228, Lond. 1841; or Amer. edit. New York, 1845.

<sup>d</sup> *Sur les Fonctions du Cerveau*, li. 506, Paris, 1825.

only a state of partial waking of animal life; or, in other words, an involuntary activity of certain organs, whilst others are resting."<sup>a</sup>

In many respects, the state of the mind during dreaming resembles that in the delirium of fever, as well as in insanity. The imagination and memory may be acting with unusual vivacity, whilst the perception or the judgment may be erroneous;—at times, the perception being accurate and the judgment suspended, so that the individual may be most incoherent; at others, the perception being inaccurate and the judgment right, so that the individual may reason correctly from false premises. As in dreams, too, the delirious may have their ravings modified by impressions made on the external senses. Sir Walter Scott<sup>b</sup> cites the case of a lunatic confined in the Infirmary of Edinburgh, whose malady had assumed a gay turn. The house, in his idea, was his own, and he contrived to account for all that seemed inconsistent with his imaginary right of property. There were many patients in it, but that was owing to the benevolence of his nature, which made him love to relieve distress. He went little, or rather never, abroad,—but then his habits were of a domestic and rather sedentary nature. He did not see much company, but he daily received visits from the first characters in the celebrated medical school of the city; and he could not, therefore, be much in want of society. With so many supposed comforts around him, with so many visions of wealth and splendour, one thing alone disturbed his peace. "He was curious," he said, "in his table, choice in his selection of cooks, had every day a dinner of three regular courses and a dessert, and yet somehow or other, every thing he ate tasted of porridge." The cause of this was, that the lunatic actually ate nothing but this at any of his meals; and the impression made upon his palate was so strong as to modify his delusion.

## 2. WAKING DREAMS.

Nearly allied to dreams, in its physiology, or—more properly, perhaps—pathology, is the subject of *hallucinations*, *spectral illusions*, or *waking dreams*, in which the mind may be completely sound, and yet the percipient part of the brain, concerned in the senses, may be so deranged as to call up a series of perceptions of objects, which have no existence except in the imagination. Such hallucinations are constant concomitants of insanity, delirium, and dreaming; but they may occur, also, when the individual is wide awake, and in the full possession of reasoning powers: he may see the phantasm, but, at the same time, totally disbelieve in the existence of any extraneous body. The most common illusions of this kind affect the senses of sight and hearing.

It has fallen to the lot of the author to meet with some singular and serious cases of this affection; where, for example, the individual, wide awake, has heard the doors of his house violently slammed, his windows thrown up and down, the bells set a ringing, himself subjected to personal violence; yet there has been no slamming of doors,

<sup>a</sup> See, also, Carmichael, in *Transactions of the College of Physicians in Ireland*, ii. 48.

<sup>b</sup> *Op. citat.* p. 26.

accompany impeded respiration or circulation. One of the most distressing symptoms of hydrothorax or water in the chest, which interferes more or less with both these vital functions, is the disturbed sleep, and the frightful sense of impending danger, which nightly distress the unfortunate sufferer.

It appears, then, that in all cases of hallucination, occurring in those of sound or diseased mind, asleep or awake, the encephalic or percipient part of the organ of the sense concerned is irresistibly affected, so as to call up the memory of objects, or to form others, which have no existence except in the imagination; but all this is accomplished without any impression being made upon the external senses from without, even when these senses appear to be most actively exercised. In dreams, this must manifestly be the case. We see a friend long since dead; we parade the streets of a town, which we have never visited; and see, hear, feel, and touch the different objects. All this must be encephalic; and not less certainly is it the case in the hallucinations of insanity, or in those that occur in the waking condition. The object which we see is not in existence, yet it is a regularly defined creation; a cat in one instance, a gentleman-usher in another, and a skeleton in a third. It cannot depend upon any depraved condition of the organ of sense, as in such case the representation of the mind would be amorphous, irregular, or confused; not a complete metamorphosis, as is invariably the case. Yet Sir Walter Scott\* states, that he thinks "there can be little doubt of the proposition, that the external organs may, from various causes, become so much deranged as to make false representations to the mind; and that, in such cases, men, in the literal sense, really *see* the empty and false form, and *hear* the ideal sounds, which in a more primitive state of society, are naturally enough referred to the action of demons or disembodied spirits. In such unhappy cases, the patient is intellectually in the condition of a general, whose spies have been bribed by the enemy, and who must engage himself in the difficult and delicate task of examining and correcting, by his own powers of argument, the probability of the reports, which are too inconsistent to be trusted to." The explanation is poetic, but manifestly untenable.

A theory, which has been offered to account for the various spectral illusions, occurring in any of the modes we have mentioned, is—that, in all the organs of sense, the mind possesses the power of retransmitting, through the nervous filaments, to the expansions of the nerves that are acted upon by external objects, impressions, which these nerves have previously transmitted to the brain, and, that the vividness of the retransmission is proportional to the frequency with which the impressions have been previously transmitted; that these reproduced impressions are in general feeble in the healthy state of the body, though perfectly adapted to the purposes for which they are required; but, in other states of the body, they appear with such brilliancy as to create even a belief in the external existence of those objects from which the impressions were originally derived. "When

\* Op. cit. p. 40.

the mind," says a writer on this subject, "acquires a knowledge of visible objects it is by means of luminous impressions conveyed to the sensorium from each impressed point of the retina through the corresponding filaments of the optic nerve; and when the memory is subsequently called upon, by an act of the will, to present to us an object that has been previously seen, it does it by retransmission along the same nervous filaments, to the same points of the retina. In the first case, when the presence of the luminous object keeps up a sustained impression upon the nervous membrane, the filaments, which transmit it to the brain are powerfully excited; but, in the process of retransmission by an effort of memory, the action of the nervous filaments is comparatively feeble, and the resultant impression on the retina faint or transient. When the memory, however, is powerful, and when the nervous filaments are in a state of high excitability, the impression becomes more vivid; and, as in the case of spectral illusions, it has the same strength and distinctness, as if it were produced by the direct action of luminous rays. In one case, the result of the impression and its retransmission to the retina is a voluntary act of the mind, but, in the other, it is involuntary, the controlling power being modified or removed, or the nerves being thrown into a state of easy excitation by some unhealthy action of the bodily organs."

According to this view, it is indispensable that the perception, in every case of illusion, shall be referred to the nerves of the organ by which such perception is ordinarily effected; to the retina, if vision be concerned; to the auditory nerve, if audition; and so on. But this retransmission along the nerves would appear to be wholly unnecessary. When an impression is made upon a sensitive surface, as we have elsewhere shown, sensation is not accomplished until the impression has been conveyed to the brain by an appropriate organ, and the brain itself has acted; and if we interfere in any manner with the cerebral part of the function, perception is not effected. From the moment, however, that the action of the brain has taken place, the idea formed can be recalled by the exercise of memory; and we have no doubt, that this could take place although the eyes were extirpated. The memory might call up previous perceptions, when the functions of the retina are entirely destroyed. Were it otherwise, it would be impossible for those who have lost their sight from paralysis of the retina, of which many cases are constantly occurring, to call up any of the scenes and images, of which the brain took cognizance prior to the supervention of their blindness. In dreams, too, we exert every one of the senses; some with the greatest activity. We see, hear, taste, smell, and feel; and, in addition to this, walk, run, fly, and execute the ordinary acts of life not only without apparent difficulty, but with a facility that surprises us. Yet can we suppose, that in all these cases, the feeling is actually produced by retransmission along the nerves of the organ to which it is referred? It has been asserted, that when examination is carefully made, it will be found, that the images, recalled by the memory, follow the motions of the head and of the eye; but, that this is not the

case during sleep is manifest. The individual may remain precisely in the same position, and yet he will seem to move about in all directions in his dreams; will appear to see objects behind as well as before him; and in situations towards which it is impossible that the motions of his head and eye should be directed. Even in most of the illusions of our waking hours, the remark ought to be reversed. The encephalic action is the first of the links in the chain of phenomena; and the motions of the head and the eye follow the images recalled by the memory. When the unfortunate subject of one of the cases of hallucination given by Sir Walter Scott, saw the gentleman-usher preceding him into company, and circulating among the assembled guests,—as well as when he observed the skeleton at the foot of his bed,—the perception, owing to disease, had so completely taken possession of a part of the encephalic organ of vision, that the idea was constantly in the mind; and volition being actively exercised, the head and the eye were directed towards the phantasm. Yet the perception was not so powerful as to preclude the reception of impressions from without, as was shown by the skeleton seeming to be shut off by the body of the physician, so that the skull only was seen peering above his shoulder.\*

Another fact, which shows, that the whole phenomenon may be entirely encephalic, is the occurrence, familiar to the operative surgeon, of a patient, whose lower limb has been amputated, complaining of an uneasy sensation, as of itching, in a particular toe, and in a particular part of a toe. This is, at times, a symptom of an extremely distressing character. It is obviously impossible, that, in such case, there can be any external impression made on the part to which the feeling is referred; or that any retransmission can occur from the brain,—the limb having been removed from the body. Broussais asserts, that if a person tells you he suffers in a limb which he no longer has, it is because he experiences irritation in the extremities of the divided nerve, but this, in no respect, removes the difficulty. The sensation is referred to a part which has no existence except in the imagination.

But, to return to sleep. We have said, that the object of sleep is to repair the loss, which the nervous system has sustained, during the previous condition of waking. This may, consequently, be regarded as the great exciting cause of sleep; but we have seen, also, that certain states of the mind may postpone the usual period of its recurrence. If, indeed, we allow the attention to flag, and suspend the due exercise of volition, sleep can be indulged at almost any hour of the day. In the same manner, any monotonous impression, or action of the brain in thought; the rocking of a cradle, or the song of the nurse to a restless child; the murmurs of a bubbling brook, &c., may soothe us to rest. A like effect is produced by substances, as narcotics, which, by a specific action on the nervous system, prevent the ordinary sources of irritation from being appreciated, as well as by certain morbid affections of the brain,—compression, con-

\* Sir W. Scott, *Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft*, Amer. edit. p. 35. New York, 1830.

cussion, inflammation, &c. In these cases, however, the sleep is morbid, and is an evidence of serious mischief,—often of fatal disease; whilst true sleep is as natural as the waking state, and is always—

“Man’s rich restorative; his balmy bath,  
That supple, lubricates, and keeps in play  
The various movements of that nice machine,  
Which asks such frequent periods of repair.”

*Young’s Night Thoughts.*

Yet Haller,<sup>a</sup> Hartley,<sup>b</sup> and numerous others have supposed, that natural sleep is dependent upon an accumulation of blood or other fluids in the vessels of the head pressing upon the brain, and thus impeding its functions. In support of this opinion, it is asserted, that all the phenomena which attend the sleeping state seem to prove a determination of blood to the head. The face is flushed; the head is hotter; the skin more moist; and it is generally during the night, or when first awake, that bleeding from the nose and apoplexy take place; the frequency of erection during sleeping is affirmed to be owing to the pressure exerted on the cerebellum, which, in the theory of Gall, is the encephalic organ of generation; and, lastly, it is argued, that narcotics, and vinous and spirituous liquors produce sleep by causing a similar congestion of blood within the cranium. The case, by no means unique, of the beggar whose brain was exposed, and in whom a state of drowsiness was induced when the brain was pressed upon, which could be increased by increasing the pressure, until at length he became comatose, has also been cited by Hartley and others. But most of these are cases of morbid suspension of the animal functions, and are no more to be assimilated to true sleep, than the drowsiness, which Flourens<sup>c</sup> found to prevail in his experiments on animals when the cerebral lobes were removed.

The believers in the hypothesis, that congestion of the vessels of the brain is the cause of sleep, consider that the heaviness and stupor, observable in those who indulge too much in laziness and sleep, are owing to long-continued pressure injuring the cerebral organs. Other physiologists have assumed the opposite ground, and affirmed, that during sleep the blood is distributed to the brain in less quantity, and is concentrated in the abdomen, to augment the action of the nutritive functions;<sup>d</sup> whilst Cabanis<sup>e</sup> holds, that during sleep there is a reflux of the nervous powers towards their source, and a concentration in the brain of the most active principles of sensibility. On all these topics our ignorance is extreme. We know nothing of the state of the encephalon in sleep. Its essence is as impenetrable as that of every other vital function. Dr. Bostock<sup>f</sup> asserts, that it is not more

<sup>a</sup> *Element. Physiolog.*, xvii. 3.

<sup>b</sup> *On Man*, p. 45, Lond. 1791.

<sup>c</sup> *Expériences sur le Système Nerveux*, Paris, 1825.

<sup>d</sup> Blumenbach, *Institut. Physiol.*, and in *Elliotson’s Human Physiology*, p. 610, Lond. 1840.

<sup>e</sup> *Rapport du Physique et du Moral de l’Homme*, Paris, 1802. See, also, *Adelon, Physiol. de l’Homme*, 2de édit., ii. 292, Paris, 1829; and Gall, *Sur les Fonctions du Cerveau*, ii. 503, Paris, 1825.

<sup>f</sup> *Elementary System of Physiology*, 3d edit., p. 815, Lond. 1836

beyond our grasp than the other functions of the nervous system. This we admit: he has, indeed, afforded us in his own work indubitable evidences of our utter want of acquaintance with the essence of all those functions. The state of sleep is as natural, as instinctive, as that of waking; both are involved in mystery; and their investigation, as Mr. Dugald Stewart<sup>a</sup> has suggested, is probably beyond the reach of the human faculties.

### 3. REVERY.

Revery has been considered to resemble sleep, and, in its higher grades, to be not far removed from the condition of somnambulism. It is characterized by the attention or volition being directed so intently towards particular topics, during wakefulness, that the impressions of surrounding objects are not appreciated. Various grades of this condition of the mind may be traced, from the slightest degree of *absence* or *brown study* to a state of total abstraction, in which the attention is entirely wound up, and riveted to a particular subject. Most persons must have experienced more or less of this, when any subject of severe study, or any great gratification, anxiety, or distress has strongly occupied the mind. If engaged in reading, they may follow every line with the eye; turn over leaf after leaf, and at length awake from the revery, which had occupied the imagination, and find that not the slightest impression has been made on the mind by the pages, which the eye had perused and the hand had passed over. If walking in a crowded street, they may have proceeded some way under the influence of revery, moving the limbs as usual, performing various acts of volition, winding safely among the passengers, avoiding the posts and other obstacles, yet so exclusively occupied by the conceptions of the mind, as to be totally unconscious of all these acts of their volition, and of the objects they have passed, which must necessarily have impressed their senses so as to regulate those actions, but, owing to the attention having been bent upon other topics, the perceptions were evanescent. In elucidation of the power of a high degree of revery to render an individual torpid to all around him, the case of Archimedes, at the time of his arrest, has been quoted by writers. When the Roman army had at length taken Syracuse by stratagem, which the tactics of Archimedes had prevented them from taking by force, he was shut up in his closet, and so intent on a geometrical demonstration, that he was equally insensible to the shouts of the victors, and the outcries of the vanquished. He was calmly tracing the lines of a diagram, when a soldier abruptly entered his room, and clapped a sword to his throat. "Hold, friend," says Archimedes, "one moment, and my demonstration will be finished." The soldier, surprised at his unconcern at a time of such extreme peril, resolved to carry him before Marcellus; but as the philosopher put under his arm a small box full of spheres, dials, and other instruments, the soldier, conceiving the box to be filled with gold, could not resist the temptation, and killed him on the spot.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind, i. 327, 3d edit., Lond. 1808.

<sup>b</sup> Liv. l. xxxv., c. 3.



It is to the capability of indulging to the necessary extent in this kind of mental abstraction, that we are indebted for the solution of every abstruse problem, relating to science or art, and for some of the most beautiful conceptions of the poet. From indulgence, however, in such abstractions, a habit is often acquired, which may be carried so far as to render the individual unfit for society, and to give him a character for rudeness and ill-breeding, of which he may be by no means deserving. Some most amiable and estimable men have, from long habits of abstraction, contracted the disease (*aphelzia*), as Good\* has constituted it, and have found the cure tedious and almost impracticable; at times, indeed, it appears to have terminated in mental alienation. The difference between this state and that of sleep is, that the attention and volition are here powerfully directed to one object, so as to be torpid to the impressions of extraneous bodies; whilst sleep is characterized by a suspension or irregular exercise of these faculties.

### CHAPTER III.

#### CORRELATION OF FUNCTIONS.

THE wonderful and complicated actions of the frame are variously correlated to accomplish that astonishing harmony, which prevails in the state of health, as well as to produce the varied morbid phenomena,—often at a distance from the part originally diseased,—which characterize different pathological conditions. It is not, therefore, simply as a physiological question, that the study of the correlation of functions interests the medical inquirer. It is important to him in the study of every department, which concerns the doctrine of the healthy or diseased manifestations, and the modes adapted for the removal of the latter.

These correlations may be of various kinds;—*mechanical*, in which the effect exerted is entirely of a mechanical character; *functional*, in which the action of one organ is inseparably united to that of another, to accomplish a particular object; and *sympathetic*, in which there is no physical action or direct catenation of functions, but where an organ, at a distance from one affected, is excited to regular or irregular action in consequence of the condition of the latter.

#### 1. MECHANICAL CORRELATIONS.

In the description of the different functions, numerous opportunities occurred for showing the influence which organs, in the immediate vicinity of each other, may mutually exert so as to modify their functions. The action of the muscles,—particularly those that contract the larger cavities, as the abdomen and thorax,—on the parts with which they come in contact, must be entirely mechanical. In this way, the diaphragm and abdominal muscles act in vomiting and defecation. During the operation of blood-letting, the flow of blood

\* A Physiological System of Nosology, cl. iv., ord. 1, gen. v.

can be augmented by moving the muscles of the hand ; and it is probable, that the constant motion of the muscles of respiration impresses a succession on different organs, which may aid them in accomplishing their functions, although the effect of this is doubtless exaggerated. Every change of position, either of the whole body or of a part, has likewise some effect in modifying the actions performed by it or by neighbouring organs, although such effect may not be easily appreciable. A similar case of mere mechanical influence, which seems to be important to the proper action of certain organs, is exhibited in the pulsation of the different arteries. It has been seen, that a succession is in this way given to the brain, which appears to be necessary to it ; for if this source of stimulation be in any manner withdrawn fainting is induced. Perhaps, however, the strongest case, that can be offered, of modification of function by mechanical causes, is that of the gravid uterus, which, by its pressure, gives rise to numerous symptoms in other organs, that are often the source of annoyance during gestation.

## 2. FUNCTIONAL CORRELATIONS.

The *functional correlations* or *synergies* are of much more moment to the physiologist and pathologist. Many of these have also been described in the preceding history : a brief notice of them will be all that is now requisite. For the maintenance of the healthy function we know that certain conditions are necessary, and that if these be materially modified, in the whole or in any part of the body, disease and death may be the result, even although the derangement may, in the first instance, concern only an apparently unimportant part of the frame,—the affection, by correlation, spreading gradually to more and more essential organs and functions, until the disorder is ultimately too great to allow of a continuance of the vital movements. In this respect, man differs from an ordinary piece of mechanism, in which the various parts are so adapted to each other as to produce a certain result. If one of these parts be destroyed, the whole machine may have its motion arrested ; but the effect is owing to the destruction of one part only, the others remaining sound ; whilst death, or the stoppage of the living machine, does not necessarily follow the destruction of any except a few essential organs, and is generally owing to the derangement of many. We shall find, indeed, that except in cases of sudden death, it is extremely difficult to say which of the three truly vital organs has first ceased to act ; and that in all such cases death begins in one or other of the organs essential to vitality, and soon extends to the rest.

The essentially vital organs are those of respiration, circulation, and innervation ; but the great use of respiration is to change the blood from venous to arterial ; in other words, to induce a conversion in it by its passage through the lungs, without which it would be inadequate for the maintenance of life in any organ ; and the object of the circulation is, to distribute it to the various parts of the frame as the grand vivifying and reparatory material. If, also, the organs of innervation be destroyed, the nervous influence is no longer conveyed

to the different parts of the frame; and as the presence of this influence every where is indispensable, the functions may cease from this cause; so that we may regard, as essential elements to the existence of the frame and of every part of the frame, the proper supply of arterial blood and of the nervous influence. In the production and distribution, however, of these agencies, a number of functions is concerned, giving rise to the correlation, which is the object of the present inquiry. If, in any manner, the blood do not meet with due aeration, as in ordinary cases of suffocation, death supervenes, in the order elsewhere described; and if a slight degree of aeration be accomplished, but still not enough for the necessities of the system, instead of suffocation, the individual dies more gradually; the functions fail in the same order; dark blood circulates through all the textures; hence lividity, especially of those parts where the cuticle is extremely thin, as of the lips, and wherever the mucous membranes commingle with the skin; and the blood gradually becomes inadequate to keep up the action of the brain and nervous system generally, as well as to stimulate the heart, and the individual gradually expires. If, again, the blood, although properly converted in the lungs, be not duly distributed to the organs, owing to the failure of the circulatory powers,—either from direct or indirect causes,—the organs exhibit their correlation in the same manner, and syncope or fainting, or positive death, may be induced. Often, however, the stoppage of the action of the heart is but for a short time. Owing to some painful impression, sudden emotion, or other cause, the organ ceases to contract, either suddenly,—when the person falls down as if deprived of life,—or gradually, when the connexion of the different functions, and the order in which they fail, are manifest. Of this kind of—what the surgeon calls—*morbid sympathy* or *constitutional irritation*, we have a good example in the effect of a trifling operation upon a delicate, and often upon a strong, individual. Bleeding will sometimes induce fainting, both directly, by the abstraction of fluid from the vessels, so that the brain may cease to act; and indirectly, when the quantity removed cannot be presumed to have exerted any influence. Some, indeed, will faint from the slightest puncture and loss of blood, or even from the sight of that fluid. In these last cases, if the syncope come on gradually, a feeling of great anxiety and oppression, occasionally of vacuity, exists in the epigastric region; and perceptions become confused, the sight obscured, tinnitus aurium and dizziness supervene, the respiration is embarrassed, the face pale, the extremities cold, and the different parts of the body are covered with a cold, clammy sweat, until, ultimately, loss of sensation and motion supervenes, and the individual is temporarily dead; from which state he soon recovers, in the generality of cases, provided he be kept in the recumbent posture, so that the blood may readily pass to the brain. On other occasions, the heart will not cease its pulsations, but will continue to send blood, in undue quantity, to the brain, so that all the above symptoms may ensue, except the temporary privation of vitality. In consequence of the severe pain induced by a displacement of two of the bones of the wrist, by a fall from a carriage, the author

remained a considerable time incapable of sight, and at the same time suffering from great anxiety; yet consciousness and the action of the heart never ceased, as in complete syncope. The third vital function,—that of innervation,—when suspended or diminished, draws on a train of pathological phenomena in the order described under the head of Death; suspending respiration and circulation suddenly, if the cause applied be sufficient; more gradually, and with the symptoms characterizing apoplexy or compression of the brain, if the cause act in a minor degree. All the three vital functions are consequently correlative, and so intimately associated, that if a malign influence act upon one, the effect is speedily extended to the other.<sup>a</sup>

Owing to the necessity for the blood possessing certain attributes, the most important of which are obtained by its circulation through the lungs, we can readily understand, that if the functions of nutrition be not properly exerted, the composition of that fluid may be imperfect, and disorder take place in various parts of the frame from this cause. Thus, if digestion or the formation of chyle be not properly executed, the blood is not duly renovated, and may be so far impoverished, that the play of the functions is interfered with. We have elsewhere shown, that if omnivorous man be restricted to one kind of diet he will fall off, and become scorbutic, and the affection will be removed by allowing him diet of another kind;—vegetables, if animal food have induced it, and conversely. Enlarged mesenteric glands, consequent, or not, on inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestine, and the latter affection itself, are cases which may interfere with chylosis, and consequently with the constitution of the blood. In like manner, if nutrition and the various secretions be not duly performed in the tissue of the organs, and, especially, if the great depurations be obstructed, the blood may suffer, and although the due change from venous to arterial may be effected in the lungs, its character may not be such as to adapt it for the healthy execution of the various functions.

The humorists assigned too much importance to the condition of the humours in the production of disease; the solidists, on the other hand, have denied it almost all agency. The medium between these exclusionists is probably the nearest to nature. The solitary fact of black blood being unfit to maintain the perfect and continued vitality of any organ sufficiently exhibits its influence. How the arterial blood exerts its agency, independently of its action as a fluid of nutrition, is beyond our knowledge. It appears to effect a necessary action of stimulation, but in what manner, or on what element, we know not: probably, however, its chief influence may be on the nervous tissue, as the privation of arterial blood soon occasions the cessation of the brain's action.

In the higher classes of animals, innervation is dispensed from three great centres,—the encephalon, the spinal marrow, and the great sympathetic.<sup>b</sup> The presidency, however, may be fairly assigned in

<sup>a</sup> Richerand's *Elémens de Physiologie*, 13<sup>ème</sup> édit. par Bérard aîné, § cxcvii. Bruxelles, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, iv. 146, 2<sup>de</sup> édit. Paris, 1829; and art. *Innervation*, in *Dict. de Méd.* 1<sup>ère</sup> édit. tom. xii.

man and in the higher animals, to the first of these. If it fail, death soon becomes general. This, however, is liable to great variation in different animals, and likewise in different functions. In man, if the nervous supply be cut off from any part, the part dies. Physical integrity, continuity, and a due supply of arterial blood, are necessary to the proper exercise of the nervous power. In the former part of this work, the wonderful resistance to death which characterizes the amphibia, and the comparative independence of each portion of the body in some of the lower orders of animals, were pointed out. The polypus may be divided into numerous pieces, yet each may constitute of itself a distinct animal. The snail, after decapitation, reproduces the head; and a similar reparatory power is possessed by other animals. We have elsewhere seen, that volition is seated lower in the inferior than in the superior orders of animals; and that in man it is chiefly,—some say, wholly,—restricted to the encephalon. It appears, likewise, that the dependence of the rest of the nervous system on the great nervous centres is less in young than in old animals. Edwards regarded the new-born child as resembling, in many respects, the cold-blooded animal; and Redi, Rolando and Flourens, and Legallois, found, that the tenacity of life, after decapitation, was much greater the nearer to birth. The functions also differ with regard to their dependence upon the encephalon. Disease may attack the animal functions and suspend them for a considerable length of time,—as in apoplexy,—before the organic functions are interfered with. This is a topic, however, which will be discussed under the head of Death.

A gifted preceptor of the author,—M. Béclard,<sup>a</sup>—has defined life to “consist essentially in the reciprocal action of the circulation of the blood and innervation; death always following the cessation of such reciprocal action.” But this conclusion is applicable only to animals; although both circulation and innervation are admitted in the vegetable by some physiologists. Legallois,<sup>b</sup> from his experiments, deduced the unwarrantable inference, that “life is owing to an impression made by arterial blood on the brain and spinal marrow, or to the principle, which results from this impression;”—a definition, which would exclude the numerous animals of the lower classes, as well as vegetables, which are deficient in both brain and spinal marrow. The conclusion of M. Béclard is, perhaps, the limit to our knowledge on this subject. Yet some have endeavoured to discover which of the two functions,—circulation or innervation,—holds the other in domination. They, who consider the nervous substance to be first formed in the fœtus, ascribe the supremacy to it; whilst the believers in the earlier formation of the sanguiferous system look upon it as the prime agent. We know no more than that both

“Maintain,  
With the mysterious mind and breathing mould,  
A co-existence and community.”

In every important function of the body we find this correlation or

<sup>a</sup> *Elémens d'Anatomie Générale*, 2de édit. Paris, 1827; or Tognoli's translation, p. 106, Philad. 1830.

<sup>b</sup> *Sur le Principe de la Vie*, Paris, 1812.

catenation of organs existing,—all working to one end, and all requisite for its perfect accomplishment. How many organs, for example, are required to co-operate in the elevated function of sensibility! The encephalon, the seat of thought, receives, by the external senses, the various impressions which act upon them from without, and, by the internal sensations, such as arise in the economy, and are generally the indexes of the physical necessities or wants. The intellectual and affective faculties enable us to appreciate the various objects that occasion our sensations, and indicate our social and moral wants: under their direction, volition is sent out, which acts upon the various muscles, and produces such movements as may be required for carrying into effect the suggestions of the mind. Between all these acts there is the closest catenation. In like manner, we observe the correlation between the animal, and the nutritive, and reproductive functions. The internal sensation of hunger suggests to the mind the necessity for a supply of aliment; the external senses are called into action to discover the proper aliment; when discovered, it is laid hold of by muscular movements under the direction of volition, is subjected to various voluntary processes in the mouth, and then passed on, by a mixed voluntary and involuntary action into the stomach. In like manner, the desire for sexual intercourse may be excited in the mind through the organs of vision or touch; the organs of generation are aroused to action, and the union of the sexes is accomplished by the exertion of muscles thrown into contraction by volition. The same catenation is exhibited after a fecundating copulation; menstruation, which was previously performed with regularity is now arrested: the breasts become developed; milk is formed in them, and, whilst the female suckles her child, unless the period is unusually protracted, the non-existence of the menstrual functions continues.

Almost all the phenomena of disease are connected with this correlation of functions. Derangement takes place in one organ or structure of the body, and speedily all those, that are correlated with it, participate in the disorder. Hence, in part, arise the combination of disordered nervous, circulatory, and secretory function, which characterizes general fever, and the various associated morbid actions that constitute disease in general.

### 3. SYMPATHY.

There is another kind of connexion, which distinguishes the animal body from a piece of ordinary mechanism still more than those we have considered. In this, owing to an impression made upon one organ, distant organs become affected, without our being able to refer the transmission to mechanical agency, or to the association of functions, which we have just described. This kind of association is called *sympathy*. A particle of snuff or other irritating substance, impinging on the Schneiderian membrane, produces itching there, followed by a powerful action of the whole respiratory apparatus, established for its removal. The sneezing, thus induced, is not caused by the transmission of the irritation through the intermediate organs

to the respiratory muscles; nor can we explain it by the mechanical or functional connexions of organs. It is produced by this third mode of correlation:—in other words, it is a case of sympathy. Again, a small wound in the foot will produce locked jaw, without our being able to discover, or to imagine, any greater connexion between the foot and the jaw, than there is between the foot and other organs of the body. We say, that this is caused by sympathy existing between these organs, and, so long as we use the term to signify the unknown cause of these connexions, it is well. It must be understood, however, that we attach no definite idea to the term; that it is only employed to express our ignorance of the agent or its mode of action; precisely as we apply the epithet *vital* to a process, which we are incapable of explaining by any physical facts or arguments.

Of sympathetic connexions we have numerous examples in the body; at times, inservient to accomplishing a particular function; but generally consisting of modifications of function produced by the action of a distant organ. Of the sympathetic connexion between the parts of the same organ, for the execution of a function proper to the organ, we have an example in that between the iris and the retina; the former will contract or dilate according to the degree of stimulation exerted by the light on the latter; and the effect is greater when the light is thrown on the retina than when thrown on the iris itself. A similar kind of sympathy exists between the state of the mammæ and that of the uterus, during pregnancy; although this has been frequently referred to ordinary functional correlation or synergy; but the connexion is sufficiently obscure to entitle it to be placed under this division. A singular example of the sympathy between these two organs, soon after delivery, is the fact of the sudden and powerful contraction which is excited in the uterus, when in a state of inertness, by the application of the child to the breast.\*

a. *Sympathy of Continuity.*—This is such as occurs between various parts of membranes that are continuous. For example, the slightest taste or smell of a nauseous substance may bring on an effort to vomit,—the whole of the first passages being unfavourably disposed for its reception. In disease, we have many examples of this kind of sympathy. During dentition, the child is subject to various gastric and intestinal affections. If a source of irritation exist in any part of the intestinal or other mucous membrane, no uneasy sensation may be experienced in the seat of irritation, yet it may be felt at the commencement of the membrane or where it commingles with the skin:—thus, itching at the nose may indicate irritation of the digestive mucous membrane;—itching or pain of the glans penis, stone in the bladder, &c. These facts prove, that, in disease, a sympathetic bond unites the parts concerned, and such is probably the case in health also. We have the same thing proved in the effect produced on the action of glands by irritating the orifices of their excretory ducts. The presence of food in the mouth excites the secretion of the salivary glands,

\* Hedenus in art. Brust, (weibliche,) in Encyclop. Wörterb. der Medicin. Wissenschaft, vi. 349, Berlin, 1831; Carus, Lehrbuch der Gynäkologie, Th. ii. 407, Leipz. 1828; and Dr. Rigby, in Lond. Med. Gazette, March, 1831.

and that of chyme in the duodenum augments the secretion of the liver. In the same manner, a purgative, as calomel, which acts upon the upper part of the intestinal canal, becomes a cholagogue; and duodenitis occasions a copious biliary secretion. These cases have, however, been considered by many, to belong more appropriately to functional correlation, as it is presumable that the propagation of the irritation from the orifice of the excretory duct takes place directly, and along branches of the same nerves as those that supply the glandular organs. It is by this sympathy of continuity that we explain the action of certain medicines. In bronchial irritation, for example, the cough will frequently be mitigated by smearing the top of the larynx with a demulcent,—the soothing influence of which extends to the part irritated.

b. *Sympathy of Contiguity*.—A variety of sympathy, differing somewhat from this, is the *sympathy of contiguity* or *contiguous sympathy*, in which an organ is affected by an irritation seated in another immediately contiguous to it. The association in action between the lining membrane of the heart and the muscular tissue of the organ has been adduced as an instance of this kind, and chiefly from the experiments of Bichat and Nysten, which showed, that any direct irritation of the muscular tissue of the heart has not as much influence as irritating the membrane which lines it. A similar association is presumed to exist between the mucous and muscular coats of the alimentary canal, and the same kind of evidence is adduced to prove that the connexion is sympathetic.\* Other instances of sympathy are,—the convulsive contraction of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles in vomiting consequent on the condition of the stomach, as well as the convulsive action of the respiratory muscles in sneezing, coughing, &c. The general uniformity in the motion of the two eyes has been adduced as an additional instance; but Adelon has judiciously remarked, that the evidence in favour of this view is insufficient. For clearness of vision it is necessary, that the luminous rays should impinge upon corresponding points of the two retinæ, and should fall as nearly as possible in the direction of the optic axes. For this purpose, the muscles direct the eyes in the proper manner; and subsequently, from habit, the balls move in harmony. We constantly hear, also, a fact adduced from pathology as an instance of sympathy. A molar tooth is lost on one side of the jaw; and it is found, perhaps, that the next tooth which decays is the corresponding molar tooth of the opposite side:—or a tooth has become carious, and we find the one next to it soon afterwards in a course of decay. These have been regarded as evidences of sympathy,—remote and contiguous. This is not probable. The corresponding teeth of the two sides are similarly situated as regards the supply of nerves, vessels, and every anatomical element; and experience teaches us, that the molar teeth—and especially the second great molares—decay sooner than the others. If one, therefore, become carious, we can understand, why its fellow of the opposite side should be more likely to suffer. The opinion, that contiguous teeth are likely to be affected by the presence of a carious

\* Adelon, *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. cit., iv. 267, Paris, 1829.



tooth, either by sympathy, or by direct contact, is almost universally believed, and promulgated by the dentist. Both views are probably alike erroneous. If the inner side of the second molaris be decayed, we can understand, why the corresponding side of the third should become carious, without having recourse either to the mysterious agency of sympathy, or to the very doubtful hypothesis of communication by contact,—especially as the caries generally begins internally. The contiguous sides of the teeth are situate almost identically, as regards their anatomical elements; and, consequently, if a morbid cause affects the one, the other is next likely to suffer, and is very apt to do so. Extracting the diseased tooth prevents this, because it removes a source of irritation, which could not but act in a manner directly injurious on the functions of the tooth next to it.

The fact of the sympathy which exists between organs of analogous structure and functions, is familiar to every pathologist. That of the skin and mucous membrane is the most intimate. In every exanthematous disease, the danger is more or less dependent upon the degree of affection of the mucous membranes; and the direct rays of the sun, beaming upon the body in warm climates, induce diarrhoea and dysentery. Acute rheumatism is a disease of the fibrous structures of the joints; but one of its most serious extensions, or metastases,—whichsoever they may be called,—is to the fibrous structure of the pericardium. Barthez,<sup>a</sup> a most respectable writer, gives a case of this kind of sympathy from Theden, which is inexplicable and incredible. A patient, affected with paralysis of the right arm, applied a blister to it, which produced no effect, but acted on the corresponding part of the other arm. The left becoming afterwards paralysed, a blister was put upon it, which also acted upon the other arm, not on the one to which it was applied! Owing to the sympathy, or consent of parts, Broussais<sup>b</sup> has laid down the pathological law,—that when an irritation exists for a long time in an organ, the textures that are analogous to the one which is diseased, are apt to contract the same affection.

*c. Remote Sympathies.*—As examples of the more distant kinds of sympathies, we may cite the effect produced upon the stomach by distant organs, and conversely. Among the earliest signs of pregnancy are nausea and vomiting; loathing of food; fastidious appetite, &c. These symptoms are manifestly induced by sympathetic connexion between the uterus and stomach; inasmuch as they are not adventitious, but occur more or less in all cases of pregnancy. Their absence, at least, is a rare exception to the rule. Hunger or dyspepsia, again, impresses a degree of languor,—mental and corporeal,—which is proverbial; whilst the reception of food, and its vigorous digestion, give a character of energy and buoyancy, greatly contrasting with opposite circumstances. In disease, too, we find sympathies existing between the most distant portions of the frame, and although these are not apparent to us in health, we are perhaps justified in con-

<sup>a</sup> Nouveaux Elémens de la Science de l'Homme, Paris, 1806.

<sup>b</sup> Commentaries des Propositions de Pathologie; and Drs. Hay and Griffith's translation, p. 60, Philad. 1833.

sidering that an occult sympathy exists between them in health, which only becomes largely developed, and obvious to us, when the parts are affected with disease. It is probable, too, that in the successive evolution of organs at different periods of life, new sympathies arise, which did not previously exist or were not observable. The changes that supervene in the whole economy at puberty, strikingly illustrate this; changes which do not occur in those who, owing to malformation, are not possessed of the essential parts of the reproductive system, or who have had them extracted prior to this period.

d. *Imagination*.—The effect of the intellectual and moral faculties on the exercise of the functions of other parts is strongly evidenced, especially in disease. The influence of the mind over the body is, indeed, a subject which demands the attention of every pathologist. In health, we notice the powerful effect induced by the affective faculties upon every function. All these are caused by sympathetic association with the brain; the action of the organs being in a state of excitation or depression, according to the precise character of the emotion. The intellectual manifestations probably exert their influence in a manner less evident, but not the less certain. The effects of one of them, at least, on the bodily functions are remarkable. We allude to the *imagination*, to which we can ascribe most of the cures that are said to have been effected by modes of management,—often of the most disgusting character,—which have been from time to time in vogue, have fretted their hour on the stage, and then sunk into that insignificance from which they ought never to have emerged.

We have had occasion to allude to the excited imagination of the maniac, the hypochondriac, and the nervous, and have remarked, that hallucinations may exist in those of sound mind;—phantoms created by the imagination; pains felt in various bodily organs, &c.; and we can hence understand, that, under particular circumstances, we may have actual disease produced in this manner; and, at other times, the feeling,—which may be as distressing to the patient,—of disease, which has no existence except in the imagination. It is to the effect produced by the imagination, that we must ascribe the introduction into medicine of magic, sorcery, incantations, Perkinism, and other offsprings of superstition or knavery. The enthusiasm, that has attended the application of these last modes of acting upon the imagination in our own times, is most extraordinary,\* and their history leads us to be still more impressed with the extensive influence that may be exerted by the mind over the body: they teach the practitioner the importance of having its co-operation, whenever it can be procured; and the disadvantages, which he may expect to ensue, when the imagination is either arrayed against himself personally, or the plan of treatment which he is adopting. The physician, who has the confidence of his patient, will be successful—if he adopt precisely the same plan of treatment that would be pursued by one who has it not—in cases where the latter would totally fail. The applications of this subject are developed by the author elsewhere.<sup>b</sup>

\* Demangeon, *Du Pouvoir de l'Imagination*, &c., chap. ii. p. 39. Paris, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> General Therapeutics and Materia Medica, vol. i. p. 57, 3d edit. Philad. 1846.

Again, pathology is invoked as affording us perhaps the best evidences of the existence of extensive sympathetic relations between various parts of the frame, which are supposed to be constantly going on unseen during health, but become developed, and more obvious in disease. The case, we have previously given, of the general effects produced upon the system by local irritation of a part, shows the extent of such association. \* An insignificant portion of the body may become inflamed, and if the inflammation continue, the function of the stomach may be disordered,—as indicated by loss of appetite, nausea, and vomiting; the respiration may be hurried, as well as the circulation; the senses blunted; the intellectual and moral faculties obscured; and languor and lassitude may indicate the nervous irritation and constraint.

The moral consideration of sympathy does not concern us. It is a subject,—and one of interest to the moral philosopher,—to account not only for these secret causes, which attract individuals towards each other, but which repel them and occasion *antipathies*. To a certain extent, however, it trends into the province of the physiologist. The tender, susceptible individual, from observing another suffering under pain, feels as if labouring under the same inconvenience, and, by a very rapid, yet complex intellectual process, constituted of numerous associations, may be so strongly impressed as to sink under their influence:—thus, the sight of blood will so powerfully impress the mind, in this sympathetic manner, that fainting may be induced, and the vital functions be for a time suspended. The sight and suffering of a woman in labour may cause abortion in another; and hence the propriety of excluding those, who are pregnant, from the chamber of the parturient female. Hysterical and convulsive paroxysms are induced in a similar way; of which the *convulsionnaires* of all times must be regarded as affording singular and instructive examples.

e. *Superstitions connected with Sympathy*.—Lastly:—the mysterious consent, which we observe between various parts of the body, has given rise to some of the most strange and absurd superstitions that can be imagined. It was believed, for instance, almost universally, in the fifteenth century, that an intimate sympathy exists, not only between parts of a body forming portions of one whole, but also between any substance that had previously formed part of a body and the body itself;—that if, for example, a piece of flesh were sliced from the arm of one person and made to unite to that of another, the grafted portion would accurately sympathize with the body of which it had previously formed part, and undergo decay and death along with it; and it was even proposed to turn this sympathy to account. It was recommended, for instance, that the alphabet should be traced on the ingrafted portion; and it was affirmed, that when any of the letters, so traced, were touched, the party from whom the piece of flesh had been taken would feel similar impressions; so that, in this manner, a correspondence might be maintained. Some went even farther than this, asserting, that such a miraculous sympathy exists between the human body and all that has previously formed part of

it, that if a hot iron were run into, the excrement of any person, he would feel a sensation of burning in the part whence it had proceeded!

It was also a notion, that grafts of flesh, united to the body of another, die when the person dies from whom they have been taken. In a work on animal magnetism, the case of a man at Brussels is given, who had an artificial nose formed after the old Taliacotian method, which served every useful purpose, until the person, from whom the graft had been taken, died, when it suddenly became cold and livid, and finally fell off. Tagliacozzi<sup>a</sup> himself lived in an era of superstition, when this belief in the simultaneous death of the parent and graft was universally credited; and the folly has not escaped the notice of Butler:

"So learned Taliacotius from  
The brawny part of porter's bum,  
Cut supplemental noses, which  
Would last as long as parent breech;  
But when the date of nock was out,  
Off dropped the sympathetic snout."—*Hudibras*.

But the power of sympathy has been conceived to extend still farther. The magical influence of the will of one person over another was credited by such men even as Bacon, who lived in the very era of luxuriant superstition, and the belief has been resuscitated at the present day. It has been credited, for example, that when a person is in a magnetic or mesmeric state, it is but necessary for the magnetizer to will that the magnetized person shall execute some act, and it is immediately accomplished. Farther, it has been believed, that a magnetized individual may be taken at the will of one, with whom he is placed in communion or *rappor*t, to a distance, and describe scenes and objects, which he had never witnessed, exactly as those scenes and objects really are; taste, smell, feel, and see objects, that are tasted, smelt, felt, and seen by another; and be wafted even to "any or all the heavenly bodies of which we have any knowledge;" and it has been gravely affirmed by a veteran teacher<sup>b</sup> in his enthusiasm on this subject, that "such deeds as these may well be called amazing, yet are they as easy, certain, and speedy of performance, as many of the most common transactions of life." Yet the evidence is totally insufficient to establish the existence of the slightest shade of such mysterious sympathy!<sup>c</sup>

Not less singular was the superstition,—that the wounds of a murdered person will bleed afresh if the body be touched ever so lightly, in any part, by the murderer. This idea gave rise to the trial by *bier-right*, which has been treated by Sir Walter Scott with so much dramatic skill, in one of his novels,—*St. Valentine's Day, or the Fair Maid of Perth*. The annals of judicial inquiry furnish us with

<sup>a</sup> Gasparis Taliacotii Bononiensis De Curtorum Chirurgia per incisionem libri duo. Venet. 1597.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Caldwell, Facts in Mesmerism, and Thoughts on its Causes and Uses, Louisville, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> The Medical Student, new edit., p. 250, Philad. 1844.

many instances of this gross superstition.\* A case of this kind occurred in our own country. It is contained in the attestation of John Demarest, coroner of Bergen county, New Jersey.<sup>b</sup> The superstition is noticed, too, by many of the older poets. Thus, Shakspeare,—where the Lady Anne reviles Gloster over the corpse of Henry:—

“O! gentlemen, see, see! dead Henry’s wounds  
Open their congeal’d mouths and bleed afresh!  
Blush, blush, thou lump of foul deformity;  
For ’tis thy presence that exhales this blood  
From cold and empty veins, where no blood dwells.  
Thy dead, inhuman and unnatural,  
Provokes this deluge most unnatural.”

*Richard III., i. 2.*

And Webster, in a tragedy published about the middle of the seventeenth century:—

“See  
Her wounds still bleeding at the horrid presence  
Of yon stern murderer, till she find revenge.”

*Appius and Virginia.*

The belief in these cases of monstrous superstition, which, it need scarcely be said, are usually explicable on purely physical principles, or on the excited imagination of the observer, still exists amongst the benighted inhabitants of many parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and is the main topic of one of the second series of “Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry.” The superstition has, indeed, its believers among us. On the trial of Getter, who was executed some years ago (1833) in Pennsylvania, for the murder of his wife, a female witness deposed on oath, as follows:—“If my throat was to be cut, I could tell, before God Almighty, that the deceased smiled, when he (the murderer) touched her. I swore this before the justice, and that she bled considerably. I was sent for to dress her and lay her out. He touched her twice. He made no hesitation about doing it. I also swore before the justice, that it was observed by other people in the house.”

It would be endless to enumerate the various superstitions, which have prevailed on topics more or less remotely connected with this subject. We pass on, therefore, to the interesting, but abstruse, inquiry into the

f. *Agents by which Sympathy is accomplished.*—The opinions of physiologists have, from time to time, rested chiefly on the membranes, the cellular tissue, the blood-vessels, and the nerves; whilst there have been some, who, in the difficulty of the subject, have supposed sympathy to be devoid of all organic connexion; and others, again, have presumed, that all the parts we have mentioned are concerned. The rapidity, however, with which sympathies are evidenced, has led to the abandonment of all those opinions; and the generality of physiologists of the present day look to the nervous system as the great source and medium of communication of the different irradiations, by which distant organs are supposed to react, in this manner,

\* See the case of Philip Stansfield for the Murder of his Father, Sir James Stansfield, in Hargrave’s State Trials, iv. 283; and in Celebrated Trials of all Ages, &c., ii. 566, Lond 1825.

<sup>b</sup> Annual Register, for 1767.

upon each other. The rapidity, indeed, with which the various actions of the nervous system are executed,—the apparent synchronism between the reception of an impression on an organ of sense, and its perception by the brain, as well as between the determination of the will and its effect upon a muscle,—naturally attracted the attention of physiologists to this system as the instrument of sympathy.

The modes, in which it is supposed to be accomplished, are;—either by the parts that sympathize receiving ramifications from the same nervous trunks, or from such as are united by nervous anastomoses; or, by the nervous irradiations, emanating from one organ, proceeding to the brain, and being thence reflected to every dependency of the system, but so that certain organs are more modified by such reflection than others; hence, the distinction into what have been termed *direct sympathies* and *cerebral sympathies*.

Of the direct sympathies we have already given some examples,—as that between the mucous and muscular coats of the intestines; and if our acquaintance with the precise distribution and connexion of the various parts of the nervous system were more intimate, we might perhaps explain many of the cases that are yet quite obscure to us. The researches of Sir Charles Bell, regarding the nerves concerned in respiration, have thrown light on those associations of organs, which we notice in the active exercise of the respiratory function. It has been elsewhere shown, that although the whole of the nerves, composing his *respiratory system*, may not be apparently in action during ordinary respiration, yet that when the function has been greatly excited, the association becomes obvious; parts, that are remote in situation, are combined in function, and all the nerves that animate them, he conceives, arise from the same column of the spine. The opinion of Boerhaave, Meckel, and some others, is, that all sympathies are accomplished in this direct manner. On the other hand, Haller, Whytt, Georget, Broussais, Adelon, and others, make the majority of sympathies to be produced through the medium of the brain. Bostock\* indeed affirms, that the facts, adduced by Whytt,<sup>b</sup> are of such a nature as “to prove, that the co-operation of the brain is essential in those actions, which we refer to the operation of sympathy.” In many cases, this is doubtless the fact;—as in sneezing and coughing; but there are others in which such co-operation seems improbable and indeed impossible. Something like sympathy exists in the vegetable; in which if we admit, with some naturalists, a rudimentary nervous system, we have no reason for presuming, that there is any thing like a centre for the reception or transmission of impressions, and the case of infants, born devoid of brain and spinal cord, affords evidence of a like description.

We find, that the properties of the vital principle are exemplified by the formation of a body of a certain magnitude, form, structure, composition and duration, and that this applies to all organized bodies, vegetable as well as animal. Where such appearance of design, consequently, exists, we ought to expect, that in the vegetable, also, a

\* *Elementary System of Physiology*, 3d edit. p. 762, Lond. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> *An Essay on the Vital and other Involuntary Functions*, § xi. Edinb. 1751.

harmony or consent must reign amongst the various functions, tending to the accomplishment of that uniformity, which enables us always to recognise the particular varieties of the vegetable kingdom, and which has kept them as distinct, probably, in their characters, as when first created by Almighty power. The irritation of a single leaflet of the *Mimosa pudica* or *sensitive plant* causes the whole leaf, as well as the footstalk, to contract. Dr. John Sims irritated a leaflet of this plant, taking the greatest pains to avoid moving any other part of the leaf; yet the whole contracted, and the footstalk dropped. In order, however, to be sure, that mechanical motion communicated by the irritation had no share in the contraction, he directed a sunbeam, concentrated by a lens, on one of the leaflets, when the leaf again contracted, and the footstalk dropped. Of this kind of vegetable irritability we have many examples, some of which are alluded to under another head.

From these, and other facts of an analogous character, Sir Gilbert Blane<sup>a</sup> concludes, that the functions of living nature, in all its departments, are kept up by a mutual concert and correspondent accordance of every part with every other part; that it would be in vain to waste time in endeavouring to account for them by groping among dark analogies and conjectures; and that it is better to assume them as facts, on which are founded the ultimate and inscrutable principles of the animal economy. We have certainly much to learn regarding the agents of sympathies, and the modes in which they are operated; but still we know enough to infer, that in many cases, in animals, the nerves appear to be the conductors; that the brain is, in others, the centre to which the organ in action transmits its irradiations, and by which they are reflected to the sympathizing organ; and that in others, again, the effect is caused in the absence of nervous centre, and even of nerves, by vibrations perhaps, but in a manner which, in the present state of our knowledge, is inexplicable, and is, therefore, supposed to be essentially *organic* and *vital*,—epithets, however, as we have more than once said, that merely convey a confession of our total ignorance of the processes to which they are appropriated.<sup>b</sup>

## CHAPTER IV.

### INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AMONGST MANKIND.

THE differences, which we observe amongst the individuals of the great human family, are as numerous as the individuals themselves; but this dissimilarity is not confined to man or to the animal kingdom: the vegetable exhibits the same; for, whilst we can readily refer any plant to the species and variety, to which it may have been assigned by the botanist, accurate inspection shows us, that in the precise arrangement of the stalk, branches, leaves, or flowers, no two are ex-

<sup>a</sup> Elements of Medical Logic, 3d edit., Lond. 1819.

<sup>b</sup> See, on the subject of sympathy, Alison, in Edinb. Med. Chirur. Transact. ii. 165; Bostock, op. citat.; Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de edit. iv. 260, Paris, 1829; and the author's General Therapeutics and Mat. Med. 3d edit. i. 75, 1846.

actly alike. We shall not, however, dwell on these trifling points of difference, but restrict ourselves to the broad lines of distinction, that can be easily observed, and an attention to which is of some moment to the physician. Such are the *temperaments, constitutions, idiosyncrasies, acquired differences*, and the *varieties of the human species* or the *different races of mankind*. Of these, the last belong more especially to the natural historian, and, consequently, will be but briefly noticed.

### 1. TEMPERAMENTS.

The temperaments are defined to be,—those individual differences, which consist in such disproportion of parts, as regards volume and activity, as to sensibly modify the whole organism, but without interfering with the health. The temperament is, consequently, a physiological condition, in which the action of the different functions is so *tempered* as to communicate certain characteristics, which may be referable to one of a few divisions. These divisions are by no means the same in all physiological treatises. The ancients generally admitted four,—denominated from the respective fluids or humours, the superabundance of which in the economy was supposed to produce them;—the *sanguineous*, caused by a surplus of blood; the *bilious* or *choleric*, produced by a surplus of yellow bile; the *phlegmatic*, caused by a surplus of phlegm, lymph, or fine watery fluid, derived from the brain; and the *atrabilary* or *melancholic*, produced by a surplus of black bile,—the supposed secretion of the atrabilary capsules and spleen.

This division was kept up for ages without modification, and still prevails with one or more additional genera. The epithets have been retained in popular language without our being aware of their parentage. For example, we speak of a *sanguine, choleric, phlegmatic, or melancholic* individual or turn of mind, with nearly the acceptation given to them by the Hippocratic school,—the possessors of these temperaments being presumed to be, respectively, full of high hope and buoyancy; naturally irascible, dull and sluggish; or gloomy and low-spirited. Metzger admits only two,—the *irritable* (*reizbare*), and the *dull* or *phlegmatic* (*träge*). Wrisberg<sup>a</sup> eight,—the *sanguine, sanguineo-choleric, choleric, hypochondriac, melancholic, Bæotian, meek*, (*sänftmüthige*), and the *dull* or *phlegmatic*. Rudolphi<sup>b</sup> also eight,—the *strong* or *normal*; the *rude*; *athletic* or *Bæotian*; the *lively*; the *restless*; the *meek*; the *phlegmatic* or *dull*; the *timorous*, and the *melancholic*;—whilst Broussais<sup>c</sup> enumerates the *gastric, bilious, sanguine, lymphatico-sanguineous, anæmic, nervous, bilioso-sanguine, nervoso-sanguine*, and *melancholic*. It is obvious, that if we were to apply an epithet to the possible modifications caused by every apparatus of organs, the number might be extended much beyond any of these. Perhaps the division most generally adopted is

<sup>a</sup> In his edition of Haller's *Grundriss der Physiologie*.

<sup>b</sup> *Grundriss der Physiologie*, Berlin, 1821.

<sup>c</sup> *Traité de Physiologie*, Drs. Bell and La Roche's translation, 3d edit. p. 561, Philad. 1832.



that embraced by Richerand,\* who has embodied considerable animation, with much that is fanciful, in his description. In this division, the ancient terms have been retained, whilst the erroneous physiological basis, on which they rest, has been discarded. A short account of these temperaments is necessary, rather for the purpose of exhibiting what has been, and is still, thought by many physiologists, than for attesting the reality of many of the notions that are mixed up with the subject. With this view, the temperaments may be divided into the *sanguine*, the *bilious* or *choleric*, the *melancholic*, the *phlegmatic*, and the *nervous*.

a. *The Sanguine Temperament*.—This is supposed to be dependent upon a predominance of the circulatory system; and hence is considered to be characterized by strong, frequent, and regular pulse; ruddy complexion; animated countenance; good shape, although distinctly marked; firm flesh; light hair; fair skin; blue eyes; great nervous susceptibility, attended with rapid *successibilité*, as the French term it; that is,—a facility of being impressed by external objects, and passing rapidly from one idea to another; quick conception; ready memory; lively imagination; addiction to the pleasures of the table; and amorousness. The diseases of the temperament are generally violent; and are chiefly seated in the circulatory system,—as fevers, inflammations, and hemorrhages.

The physical traits of this temperament, according to Richerand, are to be found in the statues of Antinous and the Apollo Belvidere: the moral physiognomy is depicted in the lives of Mark Antony and Alcibiades. In Bacchus, both the forms and the character are found; and no one in modern times, in M. Richerand's opinion, exhibits a more perfect model of it than the celebrated Duke De Richelieu;—amiable, fortunate and valorous, but light and inconstant to the termination of his brilliant career.

If individuals of this temperament apply themselves to labours of any kind that cause the muscles to be greatly exerted, these organs become largely developed, and a subdivision of the sanguine temperament is formed, which has been called the *muscular* or *athletic*. This is characterized by all the outward signs of strength; the head is small; the neck strong; the shoulders broad; the chest large; the hips solid; the muscles prominent, and the interstices well marked. The joints, and parts not covered with muscles, seem small; and the tendons are easily distinguished through the skin by their prominence. The susceptibility to external impressions is not great; the individual is not easily roused; but, when he is, he is almost indomitable. A combination of the physical powers, implied by this temperament, with strong intellect, is rarely met with.

The Farnesian Hercules is conceived to offer one of the best specimens of the physical attributes of the athletic temperament.<sup>b</sup>

b. *The Bilious or Choleric Temperament*.—This is presumed to be produced by a predominance of the liver and biliary organs in general. The pulse is strong, hard, and frequent; the subcutaneous veins

\* *Nouveaux Elémens de Physiologie*, 13eme édit. par M. Bérard aîné, § cccxviii Bruxelles, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Richerand, op. citat. § cccxix.

are prominent; the skin is of a brown colour, inclining to yellow; hair dark; body moderately fleshy; muscles firm, and well marked; the passions violent, and easily excited; the temper abrupt and impetuous; great firmness and inflexibility of character; boldness in the conception of projects, and untiring perseverance in their fulfilment. It is amongst the possessors of this temperament, that the greatest virtues and the greatest crimes are met with. Richerand<sup>a</sup> enumerates Alexander, Julius Cæsar, Brutus, Mahomet, Charles XII., Peter the Great, Cromwell, Sextus V., and the Cardinal Richelieu. To these, Good<sup>b</sup> has added Attila, Charlemagne, Tamerlane, Richard III, Nadir Shah, and Napoleon.

The moral faculties are early developed; so that vast enterprises may be conceived, and executed at an age when the mind is ordinarily far from being matured. The diseases are generally combined with more or less derangement of the hepatic system. The whole of the characters, however, indicate, that an excited state of the sanguiferous system accompanies that of the biliary organs; so that the epithet *choleric-sanguine* might, with more propriety, be applied to it. Where this vascular predominance does not exist, whilst derangement is present in some of the abdominal organs, or in the nervous system, we have the next genus produced.

c. *Melancholic or Atrabilious Temperament*.—Here the vital functions are feebly or irregularly performed; the skin assumes a deeper hue; the countenance is sallow and sad; the bowels are torpid, and all the excretions tardy; the pulse is hard and habitually contracted; the imagination is gloomy, and the temper suspicious. The characters of Tiberius and of Louis XI. are considered to be instances of the predominance of this temperament; and, in addition to these, Richerand<sup>c</sup> has enumerated Tasso, Pascal, Gilbert, Zimmermann, and Jean Jacques Rousseau.

d. *The Phlegmatic, Lymphatic or Pituitous Temperament*.—In this case, the proportion of the fluids is conceived to be too great for that of the solids; the secretory system appearing to be active, whilst the absorbent system does not act so energetically as to prevent the cellular texture from being filled with the humours. The characteristics of this temperament are:—soft flesh; pale skin; fair hair; weak, slow, and soft pulse; figure rounded, but inexpressive; the vital actions more or less languid; the memory by no means tenacious, and the attention vacillating; with aversion to both mental and corporeal exertion. Pæmponius Atticus—the friend of Cicero—is offered as an example of this temperament, in ancient times; Montaigne, in more recent history. The latter, however, possessed much of the nervous susceptibility that characterizes the more lively temperaments. Dr. Good<sup>d</sup> suggests the Emperor Theodosius as an example in earlier times; and Charles IV. of Spain, who resigned himself almost wholly into the hands of Godoy,—Augustus, King of Saxony, who equally resigned himself into the hands of Napoleon,—and Ferdinand of Sicily, who surrendered for a time the government of his

<sup>a</sup> Op. cit. § cccxx.

<sup>c</sup> Op. citat. cccxxi.

<sup>b</sup> Book of Nature, iii. 310.

<sup>d</sup> Op. citat. iii. 314; and Richerand, op. cit. § cccxxii.

people to the British,—as instances in our own day. It would not be difficult to find, amongst the crowned heads of Europe, others that are equally entitled to be placed amongst these worthies.

e. *The Nervous Temperament*.—Here the nervous system is greatly predominant; the susceptibility to excitement from external impressions being unusually developed. Like the melancholic temperament, this is, however, seldom natural or primitive. It is morbid or secondary, being induced by sedentary life, sexual indulgence, or morbid excitement of the imagination, from any cause. It is characterized by small, soft, and, as it were, wasted muscles; and generally, although not always, by a slender form; great vividness of sensation; and promptitude and fickleness of resolution and judgment. This temperament is frequently combined with some others. The diseases that are chiefly incident to it are of the hysterical and convulsive kind; or those to which the epithet *nervous* is usually appropriated. Voltaire and Frederick the Great are given by Richerand<sup>a</sup> as examples of this temperament.

Such are the temperaments described by most writers. The slightest attention to their reputed characteristics will show the imperfection of their definition and demarcation; so imperfect, indeed, are they, that it is extremely rare for us to meet with an individual, whom we could unhesitatingly refer to any one of them. They are also susceptible of important modifications by climate, education, &c., and may be so combined as to constitute innumerable shades. The man of the strongest sanguine characteristics may, by misfortune, assume all those that are looked upon as the indexes of the melancholic or atrabilious; and the activity and impetuosity of the bilious temperament may, by slothful indulgence, be converted into the lymphatic or phlegmatic. It is doubtful, and more than doubtful, also, whether any of the mental characteristics, assigned to the temperaments, are dependent upon them. The brain, we have elsewhere seen, is the organ of the mental and moral manifestations; and although we may look upon the temperaments as capable of modifying its activity, they cannot probably affect the degree of perfection of the intellect;—its strength being altogether dependent upon cerebral conformation. It is even doubtful whether the temperaments can interfere with the activity of the cerebral functions. In disease of the hepatic, gastric, or other viscera we certainly see a degree of mental depression and diminished power of the whole nervous system; but this is the effect of a morbid condition, and continues only so long as such morbid condition endures. Nor is it probable, that any predominance of the nutritive functions could induce a permanent influence on the cerebral manifestations. Whatever might be the effect for a while, the nervous system would ultimately resume the ordinary action which befitted its primitive organization. Similar reasons to those have induced the author's late friend, M. Georget,<sup>b</sup>—a young physician of great promise and experience in mental affections, now no more,—to consider the whole doctrine of the temperaments as a superstition connected with the humoral pathology, and to believe,

<sup>a</sup> Op. cit. cccxxiii.

<sup>b</sup> De la Physiologie du Système Nerveux, &c., Paris, 1821.

that the brain alone, amongst the organs, has the power, by reason of its predominance or inferiority, to modify the whole economy. That a difference of organization exists in different individuals is obvious; but that there is an arrangement of the nutritive organs or apparatuses, which impresses upon individuals all those mental and other modifications known under the name of temperaments, is, we think, sufficiently doubtful.

The *constitution* of an individual is the mode of organization proper to him. A man, for example, is said to have a robust, or a delicate, or a good, or a bad constitution, when he is apparently strong or feeble, usually in good health, or liable to frequent attacks of disease. The varieties in constitution are, therefore, as numerous as the individuals themselves. A strong constitution is considered to be dependent upon the due developement of the principal organs of the body, on a happy proportion between those organs, and on a fit state of energy of the nervous system; whilst the feeble or weak constitution results from a want of these postulates. Our knowledge, however, of these topics, is extremely limited, and concerns the pathologist more than the physiologist.

## 2. IDIOSYNCRASY.

The word *idiosyncrasy* is used, by many physiologists, synonymously with constitution: but it is generally appropriated to the peculiar disposition, which causes an individual to be affected by extraneous bodies, in a way in which mankind in general are not acted upon by the same agents.\* In all cases, perhaps, these peculiarities are dependent upon inappreciable structure, either of the organ concerned, or of the nervous branches distributed to it; at times, derived from progenitors; at others, acquired,—often by association,—in the course of existence. Hence arise many of the antipathies to particular animate and inanimate objects, which we occasionally meet with, and of which Broussais relates a singular instance in a Prussian captain, whom he saw at Paris in 1815. He could not bear the sight of a cat, a thimble, or an old woman, without becoming convulsed, and making frightful grimaces! The associations must have been singularly complicated to occasion an antipathy to objects differing so signally from each other. Wagner,<sup>b</sup> of Vienna, has collected a multitude of cases of idiosyncrasy; and the observation of every individual, whether of the medical profession or not, must have made him acquainted with those peculiarities that render a particular article of diet, which is innocuous, and even agreeable and wholesome to the generality of individuals, productive, in some, of the most unpleasant effects. Haller knew a person who was always violently purged by the syrup of roses. A friend of the author is purged by

\* "Some love not a gaping pig,  
And others, when the bagpipe sings i' th' nose,  
Cannot contain their urine for affection."

Shakespeare.

<sup>b</sup> Hufeland and Himly's *Journal der Pract. Heilkund.*, Nov. 1811, § 55. See, also, art. *Idiosyncrasy*, *Dict. des Sciences Médicales*, tom. xxii.; and Fletcher's *Elements of General Pathology*, p. 21. Lond. 1842.

opium, which has an opposite effect on the generality of individuals. Dr. Paris<sup>a</sup> says he knew two cases, in which the odour of ipecacuanha always produced most distressing dyspnoea: the author knew a young apothecary, who could never powder this drug without the superintention of the most violent catarrh; and Dr. Felix Robertson, of Tennessee,<sup>b</sup> has described his own case, in which violent asthma, attended with the most distressing dyspnoea and oppression at the pericardium, was induced by breathing the dust of ipecacuanha. Wine of ipecacuanha, taken as an emetic, occasioned, from the moment he swallowed it, "in the throat and stomach a sensation totally indescribable, but as intolerable to be borne (if life could have been sustained under it)" as if he had taken a drink of melted lead. The distress gradually subsided into one of his worst attacks of asthma. Yet, what is singular, until the time it first produced these effects, Dr. Robertson had been able to handle ipecacuanha with freedom and impunity. A friend of Tissot could not take sugar without its exciting violent vomiting. Urticaria or nettle-rash is very frequently occasioned, in particular constitutions, by taking shell-fish. The same effect is produced on two female friends of the author by eating strawberries; and similar cases are given by Roose. M. Chevalier relates the case of a lady, who could not take powdered rhubarb without an erysipelatous efflorescence showing itself, almost immediately, on the skin; yet she could take it in the form of infusion with perfect impunity.

The above idiosyncrasies apply only to the digestive function. We find equal anomalies in that of the circulation. In some, the pulse is remarkably quick, upwards of one hundred in the minute; in others, it is under thirty. That of Napoleon is said to have beaten only forty-four times in a minute.<sup>c</sup> It may also be unequal, and intermittent, and yet the individual be in a state of health.<sup>d</sup>

The senses offer us some of the most striking cases of this kind of peculiarity. Many strong individuals cannot bear the smell of the apple, cherry, strawberry, or of musk, peppermint, &c. Pope Pius VII. had such an antipathy to musk, that, on the occasion of a presentation, an individual of the company having been scented with it, his holiness was obliged to dismiss the party almost immediately.<sup>e</sup> The late Lord Selkirk told Sir George Lefevre, that one of the most robust and indefatigable of the Northwest Company's agents could not sit in the room, if salmon were upon the table. He had been known to faint under such circumstances.<sup>f</sup> The idiosyncrasies of taste are also numerous: some instances of singular and depraved sense we have described under the Sense of Taste. Dejean gives us the case of an individual of distinguished rank who was fond

<sup>a</sup> Pharmacologia, 4th Amer. edit. by J. B. Beck, p. 189. New York, 1831.

<sup>b</sup> Western Journ. of Med. and Surg., Aug. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> See some cases of unusual slowness of the pulse, by Mr. H. Mayo, in Lond. Medical Gazette, May 5, 1838, p. 232; and Dunglison's Amer. Med. Intel., July 2, 1838, p. 103. In one case of fatal disease the pulse beat only nine in the minute!

<sup>d</sup> Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, edit. cit. iv. 511.

<sup>e</sup> Matthew's Diary of an Invalid.

<sup>f</sup> An Apology for the Nerves, by Sir George Lefevre, M. D., p. 101. Lond. 1844.

of eating excrement. Certain animals, again, as the turkey, have an antipathy to the colour of red; and Von Büchner and Tissot cite the case of a boy who was subject to epileptic fits whenever he saw any thing of a red colour.

Occasionally, we meet with similar idiosyncrasies of audition. Sauvages relates the case of a young man labouring under intense headache and fever, which could not be assuaged by any other means than the sound of a drum. The noise of water issuing from a pipe threw Bayle into convulsions. The author has a singular peculiarity of this kind, derived from some accidental association in early life. If a piece of thin biscuit be broken in his presence,—nay, the idea alone is sufficient,—the muscles that raise the left angle of the mouth are contracted, and this irresistibly.

The sense of tact is not free from idiosyncrasies. Wagner cites, the case of a person, who felt a sensation of cold along the back, whenever he touched the down of a peach with the point of his finger; or when the down came in contact with any part of his skin. He was remarkably fond of the fruit, yet was unable to indulge his appetite unless a second person previously removed the skin. Prochaska relates the case of a person, who was affected with nausea whenever he touched this fruit.

It is, of course, all important that the practitioner should be acquainted with these idiosyncrasies; and so far the notion of “knowing the constitution,”—which is apt to be used to the prejudice of the young practitioner, or of any except the accustomed medical attendant, has some reason in it. It is the duty, however, of the patient to put the physician in the possession of the fact of such peculiarities, so that he may be enabled to guard against them, and not take that for morbid which is the effect of simple idiosyncrasy. This, however, is a topic which belongs rather to therapeutics.\*

### 3. OF NATURAL AND ACQUIRED DIFFERENCES.

1. NATURAL DIFFERENCES.—The temperaments, constitutions, and idiosyncrasies may, as we have seen, either be dependent upon original conformation, or they may be produced by external influences; hence, they have been divided into the *natural* and *acquired*. Under the former head are included all those individual differences, derived from progenitors, which impress upon the individual more or less of resemblance to one or both parents. It has been properly observed, that the individuality of any human being that ever existed was absolutely dependent on the union of one particular man with one particular woman; and that if either the husband or the wife had been different, a different being would have been ushered into existence. For the production of Shakspeare, or Milton, or Newton, it was necessary that the father should marry the identical woman he did marry. If he had selected any other wife, there would have been no Shakspeare, no Milton, no Newton. Sons might have been born of other women, but they would not have been the same, either in mental or physical qualities. All this, however, enters into the question of the

\* See the author's General Therapeutics and Mat. Med., 3d edit., l. 47, Philad. 1846.

influence of both parents on the fœtus in utero, which we have considered elsewhere.

a. *Peculiarities of the Female.*—Amongst the natural differences, those that relate to sex are the most striking. In a previous part of this volume, we have described the peculiarities of the sexual functions in both male and female, but other important differences have not been detailed. All the descriptions, when not otherwise specified, were presumed to apply to the adult male. At present, it will be only necessary to advert to the peculiarities of the female.

The stature of the female is somewhat less than that of the male, the difference being estimated at about a twelfth. The chief parts of the body have not the same mutual proportions. The head is smaller and rounder; the face shorter; the trunk longer, especially the lumbar portion, and the chest more convex. The lower extremities, especially the thighs, are shorter, so that the half of the body does not fall about the pubes, as in man, but higher. The neck is longer; the abdomen broader, larger, and more prominent; and the pelvis has a greater capacity, to adapt it for gestation and parturition. The long diameter of the brim is from side to side, whilst, in the male, it is from before to behind; the arch of the pubis is larger, and the tuberosities of the ischia are more widely separated, so that the outlet of the pelvis is larger than in the male; the hips are broader, and, consequently, the spaces between the heads of the thigh-bone greater; the knees are more turned in, and larger than in the male; the legs shorter, and the feet smaller. The shoulders are round; but the width across them, compared with that of the hips, is not so great as in man; the arms are shorter, fatter, and more rounded; the same is the case with the fore-arm; the hand is smaller, and softer, and the fingers are more delicate.

The whole frame of the female is more slender; the bones are smaller, their tissue is less compact, and the prominences and corresponding depressions are less marked; the subcutaneous cellular tissue is more abundant, and filled with a whiter and firmer fat; a similar adipous tissue fills up the intervals between the muscles, so that the whole surface is rounder, and more equable than that of the male; the skin is more delicate, whiter, better supplied with capillary vessels, and less covered with hair; the hair of the head, on the other hand, is longer, finer, and more flexible; the nails are softer and of a more red hue; the muscles of the face are less distinctly marked, so that the expression of the eye, and the emotions which occasion elevation or depression of the angles of the mouth,—laughing and weeping, for example,—are more strongly defined. On the whole, the general texture of the organs is looser and softer.

The above observations apply to what may be termed the *standard female*,—one whose natural formation has not been interfered with by employments, which are usually assigned to the other sex. It can be readily understood, that if the female have been accustomed to the laborious exercise of her muscles, they may become more and more prominent, the interstices between them more and more marked, the projections and depressions of the bones on which they move more

distinct; the whole of the delicacy of structure may be lost; and the skeleton of the female, thus circumstanced, may be scarcely distinguishable from that of the inactive male, except in the proportions of the pelvis, in which the sexual differences are chiefly and characteristically situate.

Many of the functions of the female are no less distinctive than the structure. The senses, as a general rule, are more acute, whether from original delicacy of organization, or from habit, is not certain; probably both agencies are concerned. The intellectual and moral faculties are also widely different, and this, doubtless, from original conformation, although education may satisfactorily account for many of the differences observable between the sexes. Gall is one of the few anatomists who have attended to the comparative state of the cerebral system in the sexes; and the results of his investigations lead him to affirm that there is a striking difference in the development of different parts of the encephalon in the two, which he thinks may account for the difference observable in their mental and moral manifestations. In the male, the anterior and superior part of the encephalon is more developed; in the female, the posterior and inferior: the former of these he conceives to be the seat of the intellectual faculties; the latter of those feelings of love and affection which seem to preponderate in the character of the female. We have elsewhere said, that the views of Gall, on this subject, are not yet received as confirmed truths, and that we must wait until farther experience and multitudinous observations shall have exhibited their accuracy, or want of foundation. Independently, however, of all considerations deduced from organization, observation shows, that the female exhibits intellectual and moral differences which are by no means equivocal. The softer feelings predominate in her, whilst the intellectual faculties have the preponderance in man. The evidences and character of the various shades of feeling and susceptibility, and the influence of education and circumstances on these developments, are interesting topics for the consideration of the moral philosopher, but admit of little elucidation from the labours of the physiologist. The only inference to which he can arrive, is, that the causes of the diversity are laid in organization, and become unfolded and distinctive by education. The precise organization he is unable to depict, and the influence of circumstances on the mind it is scarcely his province to consider.

The function of muscular motion is, owing to organization, more feebly executed in the female. We have already remarked, that the bones are comparatively small, and the muscles more delicately formed. The energy of the nervous system is also less; so that all the elements for strong muscular contraction are by no means in the most favourable condition; and, accordingly, the power the female is capable of developing by muscular contraction is much less than that of the male. Her locomotion is somewhat peculiar,—the wide separation of the hip-joints, owing to the greater width of the pelvis, giving her a characteristic gait. The vocal organs exhibit differences, which account for the difference in the voice. The chest and the lungs are of smaller dimensions; the trachea is of less diameter;



the larynx smaller; the glottis shorter and narrower; and the cavities, communicating with the nose, are of smaller size. This arrangement causes the female voice to be weaker, softer, and more acute. The muscles of the glottis, and the ligaments of the glottis themselves, are apparently more supple, so as to admit of the production of a greater number of tones, and to favour singing. The phenomena of expression, as we have often remarked, keep pace with the condition of the intellectual and moral faculties, and with the susceptibility of the nervous system. As this last is generally great in the female, the language of the passions, especially of the softer kind, are more marked in her.

The functions of nutrition present, also, some peculiarities. With regard to digestion, less food is generally required; the stomach is less ample; the liver smaller; and frequently,—at least more frequently than in the male,—the *dentes sapientiæ* do not appear. The desire for food at the stated periods is not so powerful; and it is generally for light and agreeable articles of diet rather than for the very nutritious; but the appetite returns more frequently, and is more fastidious, owing to the greater sensibility of the digestive apparatus. This, however, is greatly an affair of habit, and we have more instances of prolonged abstinence in the female than in the male. The circulation is generally more rapid, the pulse being less full, but quicker. Of the secretions, that of the fat alone requires mention, which is usually more abundant and the product firmer. The cutaneous transpiration is less active, and the humour has a more acidulous odour. The urine is said, by some writers, to be less abundant, and less charged with salts; whence, it is asserted, there is less disposition to calculous affections. So far, however, as we have had an opportunity for judging, it is secreted in greater quantity, and this may partly account for its seeming to have a smaller quantity of salts in any given amount; but the truth is, the freedom of the female from calculous affections is greatly owing to the shortness and size of the urethra, which admits the calculus to be discharged with comparative facility; and it is a common observation, that where the males of a family, hereditarily predisposed to gout, become, owing to their greater exposure to the exciting causes, affected with that disease, the females may be subject to calculous disorders,—the two affections appearing to be, in some respects, congenerous. For the reasons already mentioned, stone rarely forms in the bladder of the female, and the operation of lithotomy is scarcely ever necessary. The desire to evacuate the contents of the bladder occurs more frequently in the female,—probably, in part, owing to habit; and, in part, to the greater mobility of the nervous system.

In addition to these differences as regards the secretions, the female has one peculiar to herself,—menstruation,—a function which has already engaged attention. In the progress of life, too, the glandular system undergoes evolutions which render it especially liable to disease. About the period of the cessation of the menses,—sooner or later,—the mammæ frequently take upon themselves a diseased action, and become scirrhus and cancerous so as to require the organs to be extirpated.

In the treatment of disease, these sexual peculiarities have to be borne in mind. Owing to the greater mobility of the nervous system in the female, she usually requires a much smaller dose of any active medicine than the male; and during the period when the sexual functions are particularly modified, as during menstruation, gestation, and the child-bed state, she becomes liable to various affections, some of which have been referred to elsewhere; others belong more appropriately to works on pathology, therapeutics, or obstetrics.\*

2. **ACQUIRED DIFFERENCES.**—The acquired differences, which we observe amongst individuals, are extremely numerous. The effect of climate on the physical and mental characteristics is strikingly exhibited. The temperate zone appears to be best adapted for the full developement of man, and it is there, that the greatest ornaments of mankind have flourished, and that science and art have bloomed in exuberance; whilst in the hot, enervating regions of the torrid zone, the physical and moral energies are prostrated; and the European or Anglo-American, who has entered them full of life and spirits, has left them after a few years' residence, listless and shorn of his proudest characteristics. Nor is the hyperborean region more favourable to mental and corporeal developement; the sensibility being obviously blunted by the rigours of the climate. The effect of locality is, perhaps, most signally exemplified in the *Crétin* and the *Goutteux*, of the Valais, and of the countries at the base of lofty mountains in every part of the globe; as well as in the inhabitants of our low countries, who are constantly exposed to malarious exhalations, and bear the sallow imprint on the countenance.

Not less effective in modifying the character of individuals is the influence of the way of life, education, profession, government, &c. The difference between the cultivated and the uncultivated; between the humble mechanic, who works at the anvil or the lathe, and him whose avocation, like that of the lawyer and the physician, consists in a perpetual exercise of the organ of intellect; and between the debased subject of a tyrannical government, and the independent citizen of a free state,—

“Lord of the lion heart and eagle eye,”

is signal and impressive.

1. *Habit.*—To the acquired differences in individuals from extraneous or intrinsic causes we must refer *habit*, which has been defined, —an acquired disposition in the living body, that has become permanent, and as imperious as any of the primitive dispositions. It is a peculiar state or disposition of the mind, induced by the frequent repetition of the same act. Custom and habit are frequently used synonymously; but they are distinct. Custom is the frequent repetition of the same act; habit is the effect of such repetition. By custom we dine at the same hour every day: the artificial appetite induced is the effect of habit.

The functions of the frame are variously modified by this disposi-

\* See, on the whole of this subject, Weber's Hildebrandt's *Handbuch der Anatomie*, iv. 527. Braunschweig, 1832.

tion,—being, at times, greatly developed in energy and rapidity, at others, largely diminished. If a function be over and over again exerted to the utmost extent of which it is capable, both as regards energy and activity, it becomes more and more easy of execution; the organ is daily better adapted for its production, and is so habituated to it, that it becomes a real want—a *second nature*. It is in this way, that we accustom the organs of speech, locomotion, &c., to the exercise of their functions, until, ultimately, the most varied combinations of the muscular movements of the tongue and limbs can be executed with surprising facility. If, on the contrary, the organs of any function possess unusual aptitude for accomplishing it, and we accustom ourselves to a minor degree of the same, we ultimately lose a part of the aptitude, and the organs become less inclined, and less adapted to produce it. By custom we may habituate ourselves to receive an unusually small quantity of nutriment into the stomach, so that at length it may become impracticable to digest more.

A similar effect occurs as regards the quantity of the special irritant, which we allow to impinge on any of the organs of sense. If we accustom them to be feebly impressed, yet sufficiently so for the performance of their functions, they become incapable of supporting a greater quantity of the special irritant without indicating suffering. The miner can see into the farthest depths of his excavations, when, to the eye of one, who has descended from the bright light of day, all seems enveloped in obscurity. In this case, the sensibility of the organ of sight is developed to such an extent, that if the individual be brought into even a feeble light, the impression is extremely painful. The nyctalope is precisely so situated. His nerves of sight are so irritable, that, although he can see well in the night, he is incapable of accurate discrimination by day. On the other hand, exposure to intense light renders the sensibility of the visual nerves so obtuse, that objects are not so readily perceived in obscurity. The hemeralope, who sees in the day and not in the night, and who is consequently the antitheton of the nyctalope, has the nervous system of vision unusually dull, and incapable of excitement by feeble impressions.

It may be laid down, as a general principle, that if we gradually augment the stimulus applied to any organ of sense, it becomes less susceptible of appreciating minor degrees of the same irritant; so that, in this way, an augmented dose of the irritant is progressively required to produce the same effect. This is daily exemplified by the use of tobacco,—either in the form of chewing, smoking, or snuffing, which becomes a confirmed habit, and can only be abandoned—without doing great violence to the feelings—by attention to the principle deduced from practice,—that by gradually following the opposite course to the one adopted in acquiring the habit—that is, by accustoming the nerve of sense to a progressive diminution in the dose of the stimulus—an opposite habit may be formed, and the evil, in this manner, be removed.

When, by habit, we acquire extreme facility in executing any function, it may be accomplished apparently without the direct agency of volition. This is peculiarly applicable to the voluntary emotions.

We have elsewhere shown, that, in this case, habit only communicates the facility, and that there is no natural sequence of motions, and, consequently, no reason,—as in executing a rapid musical movement,—why one movement of the fingers should follow rather than another, unless volition were the guiding power. Volition, as Dr. Parr has remarked, is not an exertion of the mind, but apparently a simple impulse directed almost necessarily to an end; and it is affected, by custom, nearly like the organs of the body. Thus, a sensation, which excited a perceptible exertion of volition, will, in time, produce it and the correspondent action, without our being sensible of its interference; and so rapid is this process, that we seem to will two ends or objects at the same time, though they are evidently, when examined, distinct operations. But though, by custom, we are no longer sensible of bodily impressions, or of the exercise of volition, the corporeal organs, in their several functions, acquire, like those of the mind, peculiar accuracy of discrimination. The musician is not, for instance, sensible of his willing any one motion; yet with the most exquisite nicety he touches a particular part of the string of the violin, and executes a variety of the nicest and most complicated movements with the most delicate precision.

It is a common remark, that “habit blunts the feeling but improves the judgment.” To a certain extent this is true; but the feeling is not blunted unless the stimulant, which acts upon the organ of sense, is too powerful, and too frequently repeated. When moderately exercised, the effect of education, in perfecting all the senses, is strongly exhibited. Sensations, often repeated, cease to be noticed, not because they are not felt, but because they are not heeded; but if the attention be directed to the sensation, custom adds to the power of discrimination. Hence the sailor is able to detect the first appearance of a sail in the distant horizon, when it cannot be perceived by the landsman; and a similar kind of discrimination is attained by the due exercise of the other senses. This greater power of discrimination is doubtless owing to improvement in the cerebral or percipient part of the visual apparatus; but we have no evidence, that the organ of vision has its action necessarily blunted.

It has been presumed, by some physiologists and metaphysicians, that the will, by custom and exercise, may acquire a power over certain functions of the body, which were not originally subject to it; nay, some speculatists have gone farther, and affirmed, that all the involuntary functions were originally voluntary, and that they have become involuntary by habit. Stahl and the other animists, who regarded the soul as the formative and organizing agent in animals, asserted, that it excites the constant movements of the heart, and of the respiratory, digestive, and other nutritive organs, by habits so protracted and inveterate, and so naturalized within us, that these functions can be effected without the aid of the will, and without the slightest attention being paid to them. Respiration, according to them, is originally voluntary; but, by habit, has become spontaneous; so that there is no farther occasion to invoke volition. Respiration goes on night and day, when we are asleep as well as awake; and

they regard, as a proof that the action was originally dependent upon free will, that we are still able to accelerate or retard it at pleasure. They cite, moreover, the case of Colonel Townshend, related in another part of this work, (p. 137 of this volume,) to show, that the action of the heart is capable of being influenced by the will; and, likewise, the fact that it is accelerated or retarded under the different passions.

Condillac, Dutrochet, and De Lamarck,\* again, fantastically assert, that the different instincts, observed to prevail so powerfully in animals, are mere products of an acquired power, transmitted through successive generations. The views of the last distinguished naturalist, regarding the effect of habit on organization, which he considers to tend to greater and greater complication, are most singular and fantastic. It is not, he considers, the organs of an animal that have given rise to its habits; on the contrary, its habits, mode of life, and those of its ancestors have, in the course of time, determined the shape of its body, the number and condition of its organs, and the faculties, which it enjoys. Thus the otter, the beaver, the waterfowl, the turtle, and the frog were not made web-footed that they might swim; but their wants having attracted them to the water, in search of prey, they stretched out their toes to strike the water, and move rapidly along its surface. By the repeated stretching of the toes, the skin, which united them at the base, acquired a habit of extension, until, in the course of time, they became completely web-footed. The camelopard, again, was not gifted with a long flexible neck, because it was destined to live in the interior of Africa, where the soil is arid and devoid of herbage; but, being reduced by the nature of the country to support itself on the foliage of lofty trees, it contracted a habit of stretching itself up to reach the high boughs, until its forelegs became longer than the hinder, and its neck so elongated that it could raise its head to the height of twenty feet above the ground!

The objections to all these views are,—that the functions in question are as well performed during the first day of existence as at an after period, and are apparently as free from the exercise of all volition. The heart, indeed, beats through fetal existence for months before the new being is ushered into the world; and when, if volition be exerted at all, it can only be so obscurely. The case of Colonel Townshend is strange—passing strange—but it is almost unique, and the power of suspending the heart's action was possessed by him a short time only prior to dissolution. All the functions in question must, indeed, be esteemed *natural*, and instinctive, inseparably allied to organization; and hence differing from the results of habit, which is always *acquired*.

The opinion of Bichat, on the other hand, was, that habit influences only the animal functions, and has no bearing on the organic or nutritive. But this is liable to objections. We have seen, under Digestion, that if a bird, essentially carnivorous in its nature, be restricted

\* Philosophie Zoologique, tom. i. p. 218, and tom. ii. p. 451, edit. 1830; Adelon, art. Habitade, Dict. de Médecine, x. 501, Paris, 1824; and Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de edit. iv. 517, Paris, 1829.

to vegetable food, the whole digestive economy is modified, and it becomes habituated to the new diet. We know, also, that where drains are established in any part of the body, they become, in time, so much a part of the physiological condition of the frame, that they can only be checked with safety by degrees.\*

In the administration of medicines, habit has always to be attended to. The continued use of a medicine generally diminishes its power;—hence the second dose of a cathartic ought to be larger than the first, if administered within a few days. Certain cathartics are found, however, to be exceptions to this. The Cheltenham water and the different saline cathartics are so. The constitution, so far from becoming reconciled to lead by habit, is rendered more and more sensible to its irritation. Emetics, too, frequently act more powerfully by repetition. Dr. Cullen asserts, that he knew a person so accustomed to excite vomiting on himself, that the one-twentieth part of a grain of tartarized antimony was sufficient to produce a convulsive action of the parts concerned in vomiting. As a general rule, however, medicines lose their effect by habit, and this is particularly the case with tonics; but if another tonic be substituted for a day or two, and then the former be resumed, it will produce all its previous effects.<sup>b</sup>

2. *Association*.—Association, employed abstractedly, is a principle of the animal economy nearly allied to habit. When two or more impressions of any kind have been made upon the nervous system, and repeated for a certain number of times, they may become associated; and if one of them only be made it will call up the idea of the others. It is a principle, which is largely invoked by the metaphysician, and by which he explains many interesting phenomena of the human mind, especially those connected with our ideas of beauty, or the contrary; our likes and dislikes, and our sense of moral propriety. Darwin<sup>c</sup> employed it to explain many complicated functions of the economy; and he laid it down as a law, that all animal motions, which have occurred at the same time or in immediate succession, become so associated, that when one of them is reproduced, the other has a tendency to accompany or succeed it. The principle has, doubtless, great agency in the production of many of the physical, as well as mental, phenomena; but its influence has been overrated; and many of the consecutive and simultaneous actions, to which we have referred under the head of Correlation of Functions, take place apparently as well the first time they are exerted as subsequently. Sucking and deglutition are good cases of the kind. Soon after birth, the muscles of the lips, cheeks, and tongue are contracted to embrace the nipple, and to diminish the pressure in the interior of the mouth; and, as soon as the milk has flowed to the necessary extent into the mouth, certain voluntary muscles are contracted. These propel the milk into the pharynx, where its farther progress is effected by mus-

\* Adelon, in *Dict. de Méd.* x. 498; and *Physiologie de l'Homme*, edit. cit. iv. 535; see, also, Lepelletier, *Physiologie Médicale et Philosophique*, i. 269, Paris, 1831.

<sup>b</sup> See the author's *General Therapeutics and Mat. Med.*, i. 50, 3d edit., Philad. 1846.

<sup>c</sup> *Zoonomia*, i. 49, Lond. 1794.

cles, *associated* or connected functionally, but not in the sense we are now employing the epithet; for here one action could not suggest another, according to the definition we have given of *association*, which requires that the acts should have been executed previously. Many of the cases, in fact, ascribed by Darwin and Hartley\* to the agency of this principle, are instinctive actions, in which a correlation—as in the case of deglutition—exists, but without our being able to explain the nature of such correlation, any more than we can explain other complicated actions and connexions of the nervous system, of which this is doubtless one. Some of the most obstinate diseases are kept up by habit, or by accustomed associated motions; and, frequently, the disease seems to continue from this cause alone. Whenever intermittent fever, epilepsy, asthma, chorea, &c., have been long established, the difficulty of removing the influence of habit, or the tendency to recurrence, is extreme. In such cases, the principle of revulsion can be invoked with much advantage by the therapist.

3. *Imitation*.—The principle of imitation falls appropriately under this section. It may be defined,—that consent of parts, depending on similar organization, which, under the influence of the brain, enables them to execute acts similar to those executed by the same parts in another individual. Imitation, consequently, requires the action of the brain; and differs from those actions that are natural or instinctive to organs. For example, speech requires the action of imitation; whilst the ordinary voice or cry is effected by the new-born, and by the idiot, who are incapable of all observation, and consequently of imitation. The mode in which speech is acquired offers us one of the best examples of this imitative principle—if we may so term it. At a very early period, the child hears the sounds addressed to it, and soon attaches ideas to them. It discovers, moreover, that it is capable of producing similar sounds with its own larynx, and that these sounds are understood, and are inservient to the gratification of its wants; and, in this way, speech, as we have elsewhere seen, is acquired. The difficulty is to understand in what manner this singular consent is produced. Sir Gilbert Blane has properly remarked, that the imitation of gestures, is, at first sight, less unaccountable than that of sounds; as they are performed by members which are objects of sight, and would seem therefore to be more readily transferable to the corresponding parts of another person; but he probably errs, when, farther on, he remarks, that when children begin to articulate, they first attempt those letters, in the pronunciation of which the motions of the organs are the objects of sight; such as the *p* and *b*, among consonants, and the broad *a*, among the vowels, “giving occasion to a well-known etymology, from the infantile syllables, expressive of father and mother in all languages.” We do not think, that this explanation is happy; and have elsewhere attempted to show, that the combination of letters, and the words referred to, are first enunciated, because they are the easiest of all combinations; and that the expressions of *mama*, *papa*, &c., are employed

\* On Man, i. 102, Lond. 1791.

long before the child has acquired the power of imitation, and long prior to its attaching the meaning to the words which it is subsequently taught to adopt. It is certainly singular how the child can learn to imitate sounds, where the action of the organs concerned is completely concealed from view. The only possible way of explaining it is to presume, that it makes repeated attempts with its vocal apparatus to produce the same sound which it hears; and that it recollects the sensation produced by the contraction of the muscles when it succeeds, so as to enable it to repeat the muscular action and the sensation, at pleasure. This is, however, a case in which volition is actively exerted. We have others, where the action occurs in spite of the individual, as in yawning. We see the action in a second person, and, notwithstanding all our attempts to the contrary, the respiratory organs are excited through the brain, and we accomplish the same act. Nay, even thinking of the action will be sufficient to arouse it. Of a like nature to this is the sympathetic contraction of the uterus, which comes on, where a pregnant female is in the lying-in chamber during the accouchement of another, and to which we have referred under the head of Sympathy.<sup>a</sup> Many morbid phenomena are excited in a similar manner:—of these, squinting and stammering are familiar examples. Of 321 cases of squinting, of which the exciting causes were investigated, 61 were found to be produced by imitation.<sup>b</sup>

#### 4. OF THE VARIETIES OF MANKIND.

To determine the number of varieties, into which the great human family may be divided, is a subject which has been considered to be long so completely to the naturalist that we shall pass it over with a brief inquiry.

If we cast our eye over the globe, although we may find, that mankind agree in their general form and organization, there are many points in which they differ materially from each other. With those forms, proportions, and colours, which we consider so beautiful in the fine figures of Greece,—to use the language of Mr. Lawrence, —contrast the woolly hair, the flat nose, thick lips, the retreating forehead, advancing jaws, and black skin of the negro; or the broad, square face, narrow oblique eyes, beardless chin, coarse, straight hair, and olive colour of the Calmuck. Compare the ruddy and sanguine European with the jet black African, the red man of America, the yellow Mongolian, or the brown South-Sea Islander; the gigantic Patagonian, or the dwarfish Laplander; the highly civilized nations of Europe, so conspicuous in arts, science, literature, in all that can strengthen and adorn society, or exalt and dignify human nature, to a troop of naked, shivering, and starved New Hollanders, a horde of filthy Hottentots, or the whole of the more or less barbarous tribes, that cover nearly the entire continent of Africa; and although we must refer them all to the same species, they differ so remarkably from each other as to admit of being classed in a certain number of great varieties; but with regard to the precise number, naturalists have differed materially.

<sup>a</sup> See Bostock's *Physiology*, ed. cit. p. 759.    <sup>b</sup> *Med. Examiner*, July 10, 1841, p. 439



Whatever changes have been impressed upon mankind can, of course, apply only to the descendants of Noah. The broad distinctions that we now meet with, could not have existed in his immediate family, saved with him at the time of the deluge. They must necessarily have all been of the same race. None of our investigations on this subject can, consequently, be carried back into antediluvian periods. Hence, the region, on which the ark rested, must be looked upon as the cradle of mankind. The question of the original residence of man has frequently engaged the attention of the philologist. It is one, which could be answered positively by the historian only, but unfortunately the evidence we possess of an historical character is scanty in the extreme, and the few remarks in the sacred volume are insufficient to lead us to any definite conclusion. As far back as the date of the most remote of our historical records,—which extend to about two thousand years prior to the Christian era,—we find the whole of Asia and a part of Africa,—probably a large part,—peopled by different nations, of various manners, religion, and language; carrying on extensive wars with each other; with here and there, civilized states, possessing important inventions of all kinds, which must have required a length of time for discovery, improvement, and diffusion. After the subsidence of the deluge, the waters would first recede from the tops of the highest mountains, which would thus be the earliest habitable; and, in such a situation, the family of Noah probably increased, and thence spread abroad on the gradual recession of the waters. The earliest habitable spot was probably the elevated region of middle Asia,—the loftiest in the world,—not the summits, which would be unsuitable, in every respect, for human existence; but some of the lofty plains, such as that of which the well-known desert Kobi or Schamo forms the highest point, and whence Asia sinks gradually towards the four quarters, and the great mountain chains proceed that intersect Asia in every direction. This has been suggested by Herder<sup>a</sup> and Adelung<sup>b</sup> as the cradle of the human race. In the declivities of this elevated region, and of its mountain chains, all the great rivers arise that flow on every side through this division of the globe. After the deluge, it would therefore soon become dry, and project, like an extensive island, above the flood. The cold and barren elevation of Kobi would not itself have been well adapted for the continued residence of our second parents, but immediately on its southern side lies the remarkable country of Thibet, separated by lofty ridges from the rest of the world, and containing within itself every variety of climate. Although on the snow-capped summits the severest cold perpetually prevails, summer eternally reigns in the valleys and well-watered plains. The rice, too, the vine, pulse, and a variety of other productions of the vegetable kingdom, which man employs for his nutrition, are indigenous there; and those animals are found in a wild state which man has domesticated and taken along with him over the earth;—the ox,

<sup>a</sup> Ideen zur Philosophie der Geschichte der Menschheit. Riga und Leipz. 1785–1792.

<sup>b</sup> Mithridates oder Allgemeine Sprachenkunde, Berlin, 1806–1817, Erster Theil. Einleitung.

horse, ass, sheep, goat, camel, swine, dog, cat, and even the valuable reindeer,—his only friend and companion in the icy deserts of polar countries. Zimmermann,\* indeed, asserts, that every one of the domesticated animals is originally from Asia. Close to Thibet, and immediately on the declivity of this great central elevation, is the charming region of Kaschemire, the lofty site of which tempers the southern heat into a protracted spring.

The probabilities in favour of the cradle of mankind having been situate to the south of the elevated region of middle Asia, are considered to be strengthened by the circumstance of the nations in the vicinity possessing a rude, meagre, and imperfect language, such as might be imagined to have existed in the infancy of the human intellect and of the world. Not less than two hundred millions of people are found there, whose language appears to be nearly as simple as it must have been soon after its formation. Kaschemire, by reason of the incessant changes, which it has experienced in ancient and modern times, has, indeed, kept pace with the rest of the world in the improvement of its language; but not so, apparently, with Thibet—its neighbour—and with China, and the kingdoms of Ava, Pegu, Siam, Tunkia, and Cochinchina. All these extensive countries, and these alone in the known world, according to Adelung, betray the imperfection of a newly-formed or primitive language. As the earliest attempt of the child is a stammering of monosyllabic notes, so,—says that eminent philologist,—must have been that of the original child of nature; and, accordingly, the Thibetans, the Chinese, and their two neighbours to the south continue to stammer monosyllabically, as they must have been taught, thousands of years ago, in the infancy of their race. “No separation of ideas into certain classes, whence arose the parts of speech in cultivated languages. The same sound, which denotes *joyful*, signifies *joy* and to *gladden*, and this in every person, number, and tense. No art, connexion, or subordinate ideas are united to the rude, monosyllabic root, thereby communicating richness, clearness, and euphony to their meagre tongue. The rude, monosyllabic, radical ideas are placed, perhaps broken, and detached from each other, the hearer being left to supply the intermediate ideas. As the monosyllable admits of no inflection, the speaker either makes no distinction between cases and numbers, or he seeks for aid, in cases of great necessity, in circumlocution. The plural he forms, like the child, either by repetition,—*tree, tree*,—or by the addition of the words *much* or *more*, as *tree much, tree more*. *I much, or I more* is the same to him as *we*.” From these and other circumstances, Adelung infers, that these monosyllabic languages are primitive and the honourable ancestors of all others; but the argument is more plausible perhaps than sound. It has been correctly remarked by the author's distinguished friend, the late Mr. Duponceau, that, in all languages, there is a strong tendency to preserve their original structure, and that from the most remote period, to which the memory of man can reach, a monosyllabic language has never been known to become polysyllabic, or conversely. Adelung farther infers, that the immediate descendants

\* Geograph. Geschichte der Menschen, u. s. w. Leipz. 1778.

of Noah originally occupied the favoured region which has been described, and as population increased spread into the neighbouring districts, selecting, by preference, the near and charming regions of the south, east, and west. Hence we find, in the countries immediately bordering on Thibet, the earliest formed states, and the oldest civilization. History refers us to the East for the primordial germs of most of our ideas, arts, and sciences, whence they subsequently spread to the countries farther to the west—to Media, Persia, and western Asia.

1. *Division of the Races.*—It is probable that from western Asia, the sons of Noah,—Shem, Ham, and Japheth,—branched off in various directions, so as to constitute the three distinct stocks which are found to have divided the old world from time immemorial. These three are—1, the *White, Caucasian, Arabico-European, or European*; 2, the *Olive, Mongolian, Chinese, Kalmuck, or Asiatic*; and 3, the *Negro, Ethiopian, African, Hottentot, &c.*, each of which has its own principal habitat;—the white being found chiefly in Europe and Asia Minor, Arabia, Persia, and India as far as the Ganges, and in North Africa; the Mongol occupying the rest of Asia, and having its focus on the plateaux of Great Tartary and Thibet; and the negro race covering almost the whole of Africa, and some of the Isles of New Guinea, the country of the Papuas, &c. The white or Caucasian variety are supposed to be the descendants of Japheth ("*audax Japeti genus*," Horace); the Asiatic the descendants of Shem; whilst Ham is regarded as the parent of the African. These three races,—the *Caucasian, Negro, Mongolian*,—are alone admitted by Cuvier.<sup>a</sup> Blumenbach,<sup>b</sup> whose classification will serve our purpose as well as any of the others to which reference will be made presently, admits five,—the *Caucasian, Ethiopian, Mongolian, American, and Malay*.

a. *Caucasian Race.*—The Caucasian race is chiefly distinguished by the elegant form of the head, which approximates to a perfect oval. It is also remarkable for variations in the shades of the complexion and colour of the hair. From this variety, the most civilized nations have sprung. The name *Caucasian* was given to

Fig. 362.



Caucasian Variety.

<sup>a</sup> Règne Animal; also, *Elémens de Zoologie*, par H. Milne Edwards, p. 259, Paris, 1834.

<sup>b</sup> *Handbuch der Naturgeschichte*, § 52, Götting. 1791; and *De Generis Humani Varietat. Nativ.* Götting. 1777. See, also, Buffon, *Hist. Nat.* iii. 371; Beclard, *Elémens d'Anatomie Générale*, p. 110, 2de édit. Paris, 1827; Dumeril, *Zoologie Analytique*, Paris, 1806; and Lawrence's *Lectures on Physiology, &c.*, Lond. 1839.

it from the group of mountains between the Caspian and the Black Sea,—tradition seeming to refer the origin of this race to that part of Asia. Even at the present day, the peculiar characteristics of the races are found in the highest perfection amongst the people who dwell in the vicinity of Mount Caucasus,—the Georgians and Circassians,—who are esteemed the handsomest natives of the earth.

The marginal figure, p. 629, is given by Blumenbach as a specimen of the Caucasian race, near the original residence whence the epithet is derived. It represents Jusuf Aguiah Efendi, formerly ambassador from the Porte to London.

The Caucasian race has been subdivided into several great nations or families:—1. The *Arabs*, comprising the Arabs of the desert or the Bedouins, the Hebrews, the Druses and other inhabitants of Libanus, the Syrians, Chaldeans, Egyptians, Phœnicians, Abyssinians, Moors, &c. 2. The *Hindoo*s on the European side of the Ganges;—as the inhabitants of Bengal, of the coasts of Coromandel and Malabar, the ancient Persians, &c. 3. The *Scythians* and *European Tartars*, comprising also the Circassians, Georgians, &c. 4. The *Kelts* or *Celts*, a dark-haired race, whose precise origin is unknown, but presumed to be Indian. The descendants of this race are the Gauls, Welsh, Rhætians, &c., &c.; and lastly, the *Goths*, a fair-haired race, the ancestors of the Germans, Dutch, Swedes, Danes, &c.

That the time of the first peopling of the European countries must have been very remote is exhibited by the fact, that at the dawn of history, the whole of Europe from the Don to the mouth of the Tagus was filled with nations of various physical characters and languages, bearing striking marks of intermixture and modification. At this period, there were, in Europe, at least six great nations. 1st. The *Iberians* with the *Cantabri*, in Spain, in a part of Gaul, and on the coasts of the Mediterranean as far as Italy. 2dly. The *Kelts*, in Gaul, in the British Isles, between the Danube and the Alps, and in a part of Italy. 3dly. The *Germani* or *Goths*, between the Rhine, the Danube, and the Vistula. 4thly. The *Thracians*, with the *Illyrians*, in the southeast of Europe, and in western Asia. 5thly. The *Sclavi*, in the north: and 6thly. The *Fins* in the northeast. It is not improbable, that these different races migrated from Asia in the above order—such at least is the theory of certain historians and philologists, and there is some reason for adopting it. They who migrated first would probably extend their wanderings until they were arrested by some invincible obstacle, or until the arrival of fresh tribes would drive them onwards farther and farther towards the west. In this way, they would ultimately reach the ocean, which would effectually arrest their farther progress, unless towards the south and the north. The descendants of the ancient Iberians do now actually occupy the west of Spain,—the residence probably of their forefathers. Nearly about the same time, perhaps, as the Iberians undertook their migration, the Kelts, a populous tribe, migrated from some part of Asia, and occupied a considerable portion of middle Europe. To these succeeded the Goths, to the north, and the Thracians to the south; whilst the Sclavi, the last of the Asiatic emigrants, wandered still

farther north. It is not easy to determine the precise link occupied by the Fins in this vast chain of nations. They were first known to history as a peculiar people in the north of Europe; but whence they proceeded, or whether they occupied their position to the north of the Germani from choice, or were urged onwards by their more powerful neighbours, we know not. So long as there was sufficient space for the nations to occupy, without disturbing the possessions of their neighbours, they probably kept themselves distinct; but as soon as the land was filled, a contest arose for the possession of more extensive or more eligible regions; wars were, consequently, undertaken, and the weaker gradually yielded their possessions, or their sovereignty, to the stronger. Hence, at the very dawn of history, numerous nations were met with, amalgamated both in blood and language;—for example, the Kelto-Iberians of Spain; the Belgæ or Kymbri of Gaul and Britain; the Latins, and other nations of Italy, and probably many, whose manners, characters, and language had become so melted into each other as to leave little or no trace of the original constituents. The Letti, Wallachians, Hungarians, and Albanians of eastern Europe, are supposed to afford examples of such amalgamation, whilst the mighty Sclavonic nation has swallowed up numbers of less powerful tribes, and annihilated even their names for ever. This it is, which frequently embarrasses the philological historian; and prevents him, without other evidence, from deducing with accuracy the parent stocks or the most important components in ethnical admixtures.

Dr. Morton,\* in his splendid and valuable contribution to the *Natural History of Man*, subdivides the Caucasian race into seven families:—the Caucasian, the Germanic, the Celtic, the Arabian, the Libyan, the Nilotic, and the Indostanic.

b. *Ethiopian Race*.—The *Negro, African, Ethiopian*, or *black man* of Gmelin, occupies a less extensive surface of the globe, embracing the country of Africa which extends from the southern side of Mount Atlas to the Cape of Good Hope. This race is evidently of a less perfect organization than the last, and has some characteristics, which approximate it more to the monkey kind. The forehead is flattened and retiring; the skull is smaller, and holds from four to nine ounces of water less than that of the European. On the other hand, the face, which contains the organs of sense, is more developed, and projects more like a snout. The lips are large; the cheek bones prominent; the temporal fossæ hollower; the muscles of mastication stronger; and the facial angle is smaller;—the head of the negro, in this respect, holding a middle place between the Caucasian and the orang-outang. The nose is expanded; the hair short and woolly, very black and frizzled. Skin black. This colour is not, however, characteristic of the race, as the Hottentots and Caffres are yellow.

The marginal figure is the head of J. J. E. Capitein, selected by Blumenbach as the representative of his race. He was an intelligent negro, and published several sermons and other works in Latin and Dutch. His portrait was taken by Van Dyk. This case

\* *Crania Americana*, p. 5, Philad. 1839.

of great intelligence in the negro is almost unique; and it exhibits what may be expected from him under favourable circumstances.

Fig. 363.



Ethiopian Variety.

would seem to be, *cæteris paribus*, less fitted for intellectual distinction than the Caucasian;<sup>a</sup> and singular differences have been observed between the two, when exposed to similar mental and physical influences.<sup>b</sup>

Fig. 364.



Mongolian Variety.

The Mongols are spread over the central and eastern parts of Asia,

<sup>a</sup> See vol. i., p. 299.

<sup>b</sup> See abstract of a memoir by Dr. B. H. Coates, "On the effects of secluded and gloomy imprisonment on individuals of the African variety of mankind in the production of disease," in *Proceedings of the Amer. Philosoph. Soc.*, vol. iii. p. 143, Philad. 1843.

<sup>c</sup> *Op. citat.* p. 7.

<sup>d</sup> The Alfores or Horafuras are considered aberiginal in many islands of the Indian

In almost all situations in which he is found, it is in a state of slavery and degradation, and no inference can be deduced regarding his original *grundkraft*—as the Germans call it—or intellectual capability. Hayti has afforded numerous examples of the sound judgment, and even distinguished ability with which her sable inhabitants are capable of conducting not only the municipal, but the foreign concerns of a considerable community. It must be admitted, however, that from organization, this race

The Ethiopian race is subdivided by Dr. Morton<sup>c</sup> into six families:—the Negro; the Caffrarian; the Hottentot; the Oceanic Negro; the Australian, and the Alforian.<sup>d</sup>

c. *Mongolian Race*.—The *Mongolian*, *Asiatic*, *Kalmuck*, or *Chinese* race, the *brown man* of Gmelin, is recognised by prominent and wide cheek bones; flat, square visage; small and oblique eyes; straight and black hair; scanty beard, and olive complexion.

The marginal head is from Blumenbach. It is that of Feodor Ivanowitsch, a Kalmuck, given by the Empress of Russia to the hereditary Princess of Baden. He was educated at Carlsruhe, and was a most distinguished painter at Rome. The portrait was sketched by Feodor himself.

with the exception of the peninsula of Malacca. They likewise stretch along the whole of the Arctic regions, from Russia and Lapland to Greenland, and the northern parts of the American continent, as far as Behring's Straits,—the Laplanders and Esquimaux being evidently of the same race as the Koriaks, Kamtschadales, Japanese, &c., of the Asiatic continent.

Dr. Morton includes in this race five families:—the Mongol-Tartar; the Turkish; the Chinese; the Indo-Chinese, and the Polar.

d. *American Race*.—The *American race*, *red man* of Gmelin, or more properly *brown man*, differs greatly in stature, colour, and physiognomy in various parts of the continent; but his medium

Fig. 365.



*American Variety.*

height corresponds with that of the European. His colour is from a cinnamon-brown to a deep copper. The hair is almost always black, straight, and stiff. The features are large and strongly marked, except the eyes, which are commonly deep-seated, or sunk in large sockets. The forehead is generally low, somewhat compressed at the sides, and slightly retreating. Facial angle about  $80^{\circ}$ . Nose generally considerably raised from the face, sometimes arched; cheek bones high, and widely separated; angle of the jaw broad, and chin square. The accompanying head is that of Ongpatonga, (*Big Elk*), chief of the Omawhaw Indians.\*

Archipelago. They are most numerous in New Guinea, the Moluccas, and Magindano: in Celebes, they are said to be sometimes as fair as the Malays, and the savage Dyaks of Borneo appear to belong to the same family. Dr. Morton thinks it not improbable, as suggested by Dr. Prichard, that the Alfors are but a branch of the Australian stock.—*Crania Americana*, p. 95.

\* From Godman's *American Natural History*, Philad. 1826-1828.

Dr. Morton divides the American race into two families;—the American and the Toltecan; the latter embracing the civilized nations of Mexico, Peru, and Bogota.\*

e. *Malay Race*.—The *Malay* or *Australian race*, the *Taxony man* of Gmelin, is admitted by many naturalists, owing to the difficulty of referring it either to the Caucasian Indian, or to the Chinese Mongolian situate in its vicinity. This Malay variety extends from Malacca to the most remote islands of the great Indian and Pacific Ocean, from Madagascar to the Maldives, inclusive; inhabits Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Celebes, and the adjacent islands; the Molucca, Ladrone, Philippine, Marian, and Caroline groups; New Holland, Van Diemen's Land, New Guinea, New Zealand, and the various islands scattered through the South Sea. It is termed *Malay*, because supposed to have proceeded originally from the Peninsula of Malacca, and to have spread thence over the adjacent islands,—a supposition, which is not confirmed by history: on the contrary, according to Mr. Marsden, it is clearly demonstrated, that the Malays went from Sumatra to Malacca in the twelfth century. No well-marked common characters can be assigned to this variety; for, under the term *Malay*, races are included, which seem to differ materially from each other; so much so, indeed, as to induce many naturalists to refuse the admission of the Malay as a distinct variety. Their colour may be said to be brown, in various shades, from a light tawny to almost a black; the forehead is low and round; the nose full and broad; nostrils wide; mouth large; hair thick, crisp, and always black, as well as the iris. Fig. 239 exhibits an individual of this race: it is the head of a New Zealand chief. Cuvier,<sup>b</sup> Rudolphi,<sup>c</sup> Virey, and others consider the Malay variety to be a mixture of the Mongol of Asia and the negro of Africa.

Dr. Morton<sup>d</sup> divides the Malay race into two families—the Malay, and the Polynesian.

In New Guinea, and the small islands around, the *Papuas* are found, who resemble the negroes still more strongly; and similar races are met with in the Archipelago of the Holy Ghost, and in the isles of Andaman and Formosa. They are presumed to belong really to the negro race, and to have descended perhaps from individuals of that variety, who have wandered, or been driven, from their original settlements. Some of them resemble the Guinea negro in every particular.\*

Of late years, many other races have been added to those admitted by Blumenbach; especially by Messrs. Virey,<sup>f</sup> Desmoulins,<sup>g</sup> Malte-Brun,<sup>h</sup> and Bory de Saint-Vincent.<sup>i</sup> Gerdy<sup>j</sup> and Broc,<sup>k</sup>—like their predecessors,—dissatisfied with the divisions that have been adopted

\* *Crania Americana*, p. 83, Philad. 1839.

<sup>c</sup> *Grundriss der Physiologie*, th. I, Berlin, 1821.

<sup>d</sup> Morton, *op. cit.* p. 92.

<sup>e</sup> *Histoire Naturelle du Genre Humain*. 2<sup>d</sup>e édit. Paris, 1824.

<sup>f</sup> *Hist. Naturelle des Races Humaines*. Paris, 1826.

<sup>g</sup> *Géographie Universelle*, Paris, 1816.

<sup>h</sup> *L'Homme, Essai Zoologique sur le Genre Humain*. 2<sup>d</sup>e édit. Paris, 1827.

<sup>i</sup> *Physiologie Médicale*, tom. i.

<sup>k</sup> *Essai sur les Races Humaines*, p. 25, Paris, 1836.

<sup>b</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>d</sup> *Op. cit.* p. 6.



by naturalists, have taken colour as the basis of theirs. For *race* they substitute *sub-genus*; of which they admit four,—the *white*, *yellow*, *negro* or *black*, and *red*.

The various classifications exhibit the vacillation, which yet exists regarding the precise number of races that should be admitted. Every division must necessarily be arbitrary, and the individuals composing each variety are far from being alike. We find the greatest diversity, for example, amongst the nations of the Caucasian variety, and even amongst any of its subdivisions. The Frenchman can be distinguished from the German, the Spaniard from the English, &c., and if we were to push the system of subdividing, which appears at present to be fashionable, we might constitute almost every nation of the globe into a distinct variety.\*

2. *Origin of the Different Races*.—It has been an oft agitated question, whether all the varieties amongst mankind must be regarded as belonging to the same species,—the differences which we observe having been occasioned by extraneous circumstances, acting through a long succession of ages; or whether they must not be regarded as distinct species, *ab origine*.<sup>b</sup> By many, the discussion of this subject has been esteemed not only unnecessary but profane, inasmuch as the sacred historian has unequivocally declared, that all mankind had a common origin. We have already remarked, however, that this is not a question, which concerns our first parents, but belongs exclusively to the family of Noah; for, in his descendants, all these varieties must necessarily have occurred. From the part of Asia, previously described, his immediate descendants probably spread abroad to the north and the south, the east and the west; Europe being peopled by the migratory hordes, which proceeded towards the northwest, and Africa by those from southwestern Asia. These migrations probably all took place by land, except in the case of our own continent, where a slight sea-voyage, of not more than thirty-nine miles, across Behring's Straits, even in frail vessels, would be sufficient to transport emigrants without much risk of misadventure; and even this short voyage would be rendered unnecessary during the winter season, the strait being solidified into a continuous mass of ice. Europe probably received its inhabitants long before navigation existed to any extent. Subsequently, when a coasting trade was first established,—to which the enterprise of nations would necessarily be limited in the first instance, until by improved vessels and a better system of management they were enabled to brave the terrors of the ocean, and undertake their adventurous voyages of discovery,—many of the coasts, especially of the Mediterranean, received swarms of emigrants, a circumstance, which accounts for the motley population,

\* Art. Menschen-varietaten. in Pierer's Anat. Phys. Real Wörterbuch, v. 153.

<sup>b</sup> Lawrence, op. citat.; Weber's Hildebrandt's Handbuch der Anatomie, iv. 529, Braunschweig, 1832; J. Cloquet, Anatomie de l'Homme, tom. i. pl. 29, Paris, 1821; Lacepède, art. Homme, in Dict. des Sciences Naturel. xxi. 382; J. E. Doornik, Wyageerig Natuurkundig Onderzoek aangaande den Oorsprongliken Menschen de Oorspronglike Stammen van dezelfs Geslacht. Amsterd. 1828; Elliotson's Human Physiology, 1062, Philad. 1840; Prichard, Researches into the Physical History of Mankind, 3d edit. vol. i. Lond. 1836; and Nat. History of Man, Lond. 1843.

observable, at an early period, in these regions. Carthage, we know, was settled by the Phœnicians, and southern Italy and Spain, in this manner, received their Greek colonies. Dr. Copland<sup>a</sup> has even expressed his belief in the view, that this continent was visited "by Phœnician navigators, the greater part of whom settled in it, particularly in Mexico; and that the imperfect navigation of that era prevented many of the adventurers, if not all of them, from returning." The notion is, however, altogether hypothetical.

The greatest difficulty has been,—to comprehend how the Caucasian and Ethiopian varieties could have originated from the same source. The other varieties of mankind, if we exclude the negro, could be referred, without much hesitancy, to the same primitive stock,—the changes being caused by adventitious circumstances operating for an immense period; but it has seemed to many naturalists impossible to suppose, that the characters of the negro could, by any process, become converted into those of the European, or conversely.

The people of antediluvian times probably possessed but few physical differences,—constituting one large family, modified, perhaps, to a certain extent, by circumstances, but not materially; the two antithetical races,—the white and the black,—first arising in postdiluvian periods. If we adopt this view, the question regarding the difference of *species* between the white and the black will require no agitation. But how are we to explain the essential differences as to form and colour, which we notice amongst the nations of the earth?

In the infancy of anthropology, it was asserted, that the white races inhabit the cold and temperate regions of the earth, whilst the tawny and darker races are situate under a more vertical sun. Within certain limits, the sun is doubtless possessed of the power of modifying the colour. The difference between one, who has been for some time exposed to the rays of a tropical sun, and his brethren of the more temperate climates, is a matter of universal observation. The inhabitant of Spain is, in this way, distinguishable from the French, German, English, &c.; and hence we can understand, why the Southern Asiatic and African women of the Arab race, when confined within the walls of the seraglio, may be as white as the fairest Europeans. There are many exceptions, however, to the notion which has prevailed, that there is an exact ratio between the heat of the climate and the blackness of the skin. For example, at the extreme north of Europe, Asia, and America, we find the Laplanders, Samoiedes, Esquimaux, &c., with the skin very brown, and the hair and iris black; whilst, in the vicinity of the Laplanders, are the Fins,—a people of large stature compared with the Laplanders, with fair skins and bluish-gray eyes. In the same manner, to the south of the Greenlander,—of short stature, brown skin, and dark hair,—is the tall and fair Ice-lander. The Kelt of Wales, and of the western coast of Ireland, of the north of Scotland, and of the west of Bretagne, is still distinguished, by his dark hair and eyes, from the light-haired descendants of the Goth,—the German and the Scandinavian. Many distinct tribes exist in the interior of Africa, having a red or copper hue, with lank

<sup>a</sup> Notes to translation of Richerand's Physiology.

black hair, and in the midst of the black varieties of their species. A similar fact was observed by Humboldt in different parts of South America. Again, the negro race is not always found in the torrid zone. On our own continent, none have ever been met with, except what have been imported; and these, after repeated descents, have still retained their original character; whilst, as we have seen, negroes are met with in Australia under a climate as cold as that of Washington. The fact of the slight mutation effected by ages on the character of a race is strikingly shown by the circumstance to which we have before referred,—that in some of the monuments of Egypt, visited by Belzoni and Champollion, representations of the negro, presumed to be upwards of three thousand years old, exhibit the features to be almost identical with those of the negro of the present day. The Jew affords an example of the same immutability, as well as the Esquimaux, who strikingly retain the evidence of their Kalmuck origin. Complexion and, to a certain extent, the figure are doubtless modified by climate, but the essential characters of the organization remain little if at all changed. Volney has fancifully supposed, that the elongated visage of the negro is owing to the wry face habitually made under exposure to the rays of the sun. Independently, however, of the objection, that this would be wholly insufficient to account for the striking peculiarities of the negro head, it has already been remarked, that these peculiarities do not exist among other races, inhabiting equally hot climes; and that the negro himself is not confined to those climates, and ought, consequently, to lose the *mouseau* or snout, when the country is so cool as to render the wry face or *moue* unnecessary.\*

It may then, we think, be concluded, that the evidence in favour of the colour of the negro, of the red man, or of the tawny, being produced directly or indirectly by the solar rays, is insufficient to establish the point. One important argument in the negative is the fact, that in all cases the children are born fair, and would continue so, if not exposed to the degree of solar heat, which had produced the change in their progenitors.†

In addition to the influence of temperature, and climate, that of food, and of different manners and customs has been frequently invoked, but without any precise results being deduced. The effect of difference in manners and customs is shown in the results of domestication on animals,—as in the case of the wild and the disciplined horse; and of the bison and the ox,—which last is regarded as the bison in a state of tameness. The precise cause of such modification we know not. It is not confined to the animal, but is signally evidenced in the vegetable. The flower of the forest, when received into the *parterre* and carefully nurtured, may develop itself in such a manner as to be with difficulty recognisable. The change seems to be produced by variation of climate and nutrition, but in what precise manner we know not.

The powerful modifying influence of locality on the development

\* Art. cit. in Dict. des Sciences Médicales.

† Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology, part iii. p. 69. Edinb. 1837.

of the moral and physical powers has been more than once referred to. Perhaps the most remarkable examples are met with at the base of lofty mountains, particularly of the Alps, and in some of the unhealthy districts of France especially. One of these is *cretinism*, a singular case of malformation, with which we are happily unacquainted in the United States. This is a state of idiocy, which is remarkable in its subjects being always more or less deformed, and in its appearing to originate from local influences. The *crétin* has every characteristic of the idiot; and, in addition, is often distinguished by a large *goître* or swelling of the thyroid gland; by soft flabby flesh; and by shrivelled, yellowish, or pale and cadaverous skin, covered, at times, with filthy cutaneous eruptions. The tongue is thick and pendant; the eyelids large and projecting; the eyes gummy, red, and prominent; the nose flat; the mouth gaping and drivelling; the face puffy, and at times, violet-coloured, and the lower jaw elongated. In several, the forehead is broad inferiorly, and flattened and retreating above, giving the cranium the shape of a cone rounded towards its smaller extremity. The stature of the cretin is generally small, scarcely ever exceeding four feet and a few inches; the limbs are frequently malformed, and almost always kept in a state of flexion. All the cretins are not affected with *goître*. Some have large and short, whilst others have thin, and long necks. Like the idiot, the cretin does not generally live long, scarcely ever surviving his thirtieth year.

It has been estimated,<sup>a</sup> that in the valleys of Switzerland, the number of cretins at the present day amounts to eight thousand, who are completely idiotic, and to double or treble the number, who are more or less affected.

Authors have differed in opinion as to the causes of this deplorable condition. It is observed almost exclusively in the deep and narrow valleys at the foot of lofty mountains, and in mountain gorges. Hence, it is common in that part of the Alps called the Valais or Wallais; in the valley of Aost, La Maurienne, &c. It is met with, too, at the foot of the mountains of Auvergne, the Pyrenees, the Tyrol, &c. De Saussure, Esquirol, Foderé, Rambuteau,—and all who have had an opportunity of observing these miserable wrecks of humanity,—believe, that the great cause is the concentrated, moist, and warm air, which prevails throughout almost the whole of the year in the valleys and mountain gorges where it is found to exist.<sup>b</sup> That it is dependent upon the locality is obvious, but how this acts, we know no more than we do of the causes of other endemic affections,—intermittent fever, pellagra, beriberi, &c., &c.<sup>c</sup>

After all, perhaps, the strongest arguments, in favour of extra-

<sup>a</sup> British and Foreign Medical Review, April, 1844, p. 514.

<sup>b</sup> Dr. James Johnson, *Change of Air*, Amer. edit. p. 61, New York, 1831; and Assistant Surgeon J. McClelland, in *Dublin Journal of Medical and Chemical Sciences*, May, 1837, p. 293; De Saussure, *Voyages dans les Alpes*, ch. xlvii. § 1050; Reeve, in *Philos. Transact.* for 1808, p. 111; Prichard on *Insanity*, p. 318, Lond. 1835; and Hodgkin, *Catalogue of Guy's Museum*, § v. part ii., London, 1829; and W. Twining, *Some Account of Cretinism*, &c., &c., Lond. 1843: cited in *British and Foreign Medical Review*, April, 1844, p. 515.

<sup>c</sup> See the author's *Practice of Medicine*, 2d edit., i. 557. Philad. 1844.

neous circumstances occasioning, in the lapse of ages, the different varieties, which we observe in the great human family are those derived from the changes that must have occurred amongst many of the inferior animals. The dog, in its wild state, has always pretty nearly the same characters,—being covered with hair of the same colour: the ears and tail, and limbs, have the same shape, and it exhibits, apparently, the same powers and instincts; but, on this matter, our knowledge, derived from observation, is necessarily limited. Yet what a number of varieties are observed in this animal when it becomes domesticated; and how different from each other, in shape, colour, character of skin, and instincts, are the spaniel, hound, grayhound, pointer, mastiff, terrier, cur, pug, lapdog, &c.; differences certainly as great as between the varieties of mankind. These differences, it is presumable, may have been produced partly by the occurrence of accidental varieties, affecting perhaps a whole litter,—male and female; so that if these again were to be coupled, the variety, thus accidentally caused, might become permanent. Such accidental varieties occasionally occur in the human species, but they are soon lost, in consequence of the wise law that prevents individuals, within certain degrees of consanguinity, from marrying. It is by no means uncommon, for example, for different children of the same family, from some accidental cause, to be born with six fingers. The author has met with two families in each of which more than one individual was thus circumstanced; and Sir Anthony Carlisle<sup>a</sup> has detailed the remarkable case of a family from this continent, where the superfluity extended, in the case of a female, to two thumbs on each hand, and to six toes on each foot. She married and had several children, who, in their turn, became parents, and transmitted the peculiarity to the children to the fourth generation. Now, if the members of this family had continued to marry in and in, a new race of individuals might have been perpetuated, possessing the unnecessary additions in question. Under existing laws and customs it must always happen, that where such peculiarity exists in one parent only, it must soon become extinct; yet, as we have seen, it may be pertinacious enough to persist for some generations. Fortunately, also, it happens, that, as a general rule, no change, which occurs accidentally in the parent after birth, is liable to be extended to the progeny.<sup>b</sup> Were the rule other than it is, it will be at once seen, the most strange and innumerable varieties of races would arise. Where a limb had become distorted or amputated, a stock of one-limbed animals would be formed; the docked horse would propagate a mutilated colt; the operation of circumcision, performed on one parent, ought to be sufficient for the whole of his descendants, &c., &c.

<sup>a</sup> *Philosoph. Transact.* for 1814. See, also, Prichard's *Researches into the Physical History of Mankind*, i. 245 and 352, Lond. 1836; and his *Nat. History of Man*, Lond. 1843; art. *Generation*, *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.* part xiii. p. 473, Feb. 1838; Morand, *Mémoir. de l'Académ. pour* 1780, p. 137; Isidore St. Hilaire, *Histoire Générale et Particulière des Anomalies de l'Organisation*, p. 681, Paris, 1832; and Walker, on *Inter-marriage*, Amer. edit. New York, 1839.

<sup>b</sup> The author has been informed by one who has had ample opportunity for observation, that when two deaf and dumb individuals marry, the defect is rarely, if ever, observed in their progeny: but that the contrary is the case with the born blind.

In addition to this mode of accounting for the great number of varieties in animals of the same species, the influence of difference in manners and customs, which we have already considered, has been adduced; and it has been conceived that the effect of civilization and refinement on the human race may be analogous to that of domestication on the inferior animals. This kind of influence is said to be particularly observable amongst the inhabitants of Hindustan, where, in consequence of the division into castes, the same condition of life, and the same occupation are continued without change through many successive generations. The artisans, who are a superior class, are of a manifestly lighter complexion than the tillers of the soil; and in many of the islands of Polynesia, the same difference exists between the classes as in Hindustan.

The believers, then, in the Mosaic account of the creation, and the deluge, must regard all the varieties of mankind to have descended from the same family,—that of Noah,—and the different changes, which have been impressed upon their descendants, to be results of extraneous influences acting through a long succession of ages, added to the production perhaps of accidental varieties, which may have occurred in the very infancy of postdiluvian existence, when the intermarriage of near relations was unavoidable, and when such varieties would necessarily be perpetuated. The race of Ham appears to have been separated, if not wholly, at least in part, from their brethren by the malediction of Noah; and, whether we consider that a physical alteration was comprised in the malediction, or that such alteration might occur accidentally, as in the cases of those with supernumerary toes and fingers, the very fact of intermarriage with the descendants of the other sons of Noah being prevented by the curse pronounced on Ham (for many commentators read Ham for Canaan), would necessarily lead to a perpetuation of the adventitious modification.

But, it has been asked, if all mankind have descended from one family, which of the varieties now extant must be regarded as their representative? On this we have nothing but conjecture to guide us. It has been supposed, by some, to be more probable that the changes induced upon mankind have been in consequence of the progress from a state of barbarism to one of refinement than the reverse; and hence, it has been conceived, that variety ought to be considered primary, which, through all the vicissitudes of human affairs, has remained in the most degraded condition, and which, in its structure, differs most materially from the variety that has uniformly enjoyed the greatest degree of civilization. Upon this principle, the Ethiopian would have to be regarded as the type of our first ancestors, and such is the opinion of Prichard, and of Bostock. Blumenbach, however, maintains the converse view. Bishop Heber, again, suggests, whether the hue of the Hindoo, which is a brownish-yellow, may not have been that of our first parents, whence the transition, he thinks, to the white and black varieties, might be more easy and comprehensible. Philology occasionally aids us in our historical deductions, but the evidence afforded by it has to be received with caution.

The Hebrew names, like all original appellations, in perhaps all languages, are generally expressive, and therefore worthy of consideration in questions of this nature. The Hebrew word Adam, (אָדָם,) is not only the name of the first man, but it signifies man in the abstract, corresponding to the Greek, ἀνθρωπος, and the Latin, *Homo*. We are told, in the sacred volume, that "in the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." The word Adam is derived from a Hebrew root, (אָדָם,) signifying "to be red," and, accordingly, it is not improbable that the original hue of the first man was of that character.

The remarks already made, render it unnecessary to inquire into the mode in which, according to the notions of Blumenbach,<sup>a</sup> of Dr. S. S. Smith,<sup>b</sup> or of Dr. Rush, the black colour of the Ethiopian has been produced. Blumenbach imagined, that the heat of the climate gives rise to an excessive secretion of bile; that in consequence of the connexion which exists between the action of the liver and the skin, an accumulation of carbonaceous matter takes place in the cutaneous vessels, and that this process, being continued for a succession of ages, the black colour of the skin becomes habitual. <sup>c</sup>Dr. Smith had a similar opinion; he thought, that the complexion in any climate will be changed towards black, in proportion to the degree of heat in the atmosphere, and to the quantity of bile in the skin; and, lastly, Dr. Rush, in one of the strangest of the strange views which have emanated from that distinguished, but too enthusiastic, individual, has attempted to prove, "that the colour and figure of that part of our fellow-creatures, who are known by the epithet of negroes, are derived from a modification of that disease which is known by the name of leprosy."

The following are his deductions from "facts and principles"<sup>e</sup> urged in a communication, read before the American Philosophical Society in 1792:—"1. That all the claims of superiority of the whites over the blacks, on account of their colour, are founded alike in ignorance and inhumanity. If the colour of negroes be the effect of a disease, instead of inviting us to tyrannize over them, it should entitle them to a double portion of our humanity, for disease all over the world has always been the signal for immediate and universal compassion. 2. The facts and principles which have been delivered, should teach white people the necessity of keeping up that prejudice against such connexions with them, as would tend to infect posterity with any portion of their disorder. This may be done upon the ground I have mentioned without offering violence to humanity, or calling in question the sameness of descent, or natural equality of mankind. 3. Is the colour of the negroes a disease? Then let science and humanity combine their efforts, and endeavour to discover a remedy for it.

<sup>a</sup> De Gener. Human. Variet. Nat., edit. 3tia, p. 66, Gotting. 1795.

<sup>b</sup> An Essay on the Causes of the Variety of Complexion and Figure in the Human Species, Philad. 1787.

<sup>c</sup> Transact. of the American Philosoph. Society, vol. iv.

Nature has lately unfurled a banner upon this subject. She has begun spontaneous cures of this disease in several black people in this country. In a certain Henry Moss, who lately travelled through this city, and was exhibited as a show for money, the cure was nearly complete. The change from black to a natural white flesh colour began about five years ago at the ends of his fingers, and has extended gradually over the greatest part of his body. The wool, which formerly perforated the cuticle, has been changed into hair. No change in the diet, drinks, dress, employments, or situation of this man had taken place previously to this change in his skin. But this fact does not militate against artificial attempts to dislodge the colour in negroes, any more than the spontaneous cures of many other diseases militate against the use of medicine in the practice of physic. To direct our experiments upon this subject I shall throw out the following facts:—1. In Henry Moss the colour was first discharged from the skin in those places, on which there was most pressure from clothing, and most attrition from labour, as on the trunk of his body, and on his fingers. The destruction of the black colour was probably occasioned by the absorption of the colouring matter of the rete mucosum, or perhaps of the rete mucosum itself, for pressure and friction, it is well known, aid the absorbing action of the lymphatics in every part of the body. It is from the latter cause, that the palms of the hands of negro women, who spend their lives at a washing-tub, are generally as fair as the palms of the hands in labouring white people. 2. Depletion, whether by bleeding, purging, or abstinence, has been often observed to lessen the black colour in negroes. The effects of the above remedies in curing the common leprosy satisfy me that they might be used, with advantage, in that state of leprosy, which I conceive to exist in the skin of the negroes. 3. A similar change in the colour of the negroes, though of a more temporary nature, has often been observed in them from the influence of fear. 4. Dr. Beddoes tells us that he has discharged the colour in the black wool of a negro by infusing it in the oxygenated muriatic acid, and lessened it by the same means in the hand of a negro man. The land-cloud of Africa, called by the Portuguese *Ferrino*, Mr. Hawkins tells us, has a peculiar action upon the negroes in changing the black colour of their skins to dusky gray. Its action is accompanied, he says, with an itching and prickling sensation upon every part of the body, which increases with the length of exposure to it so as to be almost intolerable. It is probably air of the carbonic kind, for it uniformly extinguishes fire. 5. A citizen of Philadelphia, upon whose veracity I have perfect reliance,\* assured me that he had once seen the skin of one side of the cheek inclining to the chin, and of part of the hand in a negro boy, changed to a white colour by the juice of unripe peaches, (of which he ate a large quantity every year,) falling, and resting frequently upon those parts of his body.

"To encourage attempts to cure this disease of the skin in negroes, let us recollect that, by succeeding in them, we shall produce a large portion of happiness in the world. We shall in the first place

\* "Mr. Thomas Harrison."



destroy one of the arguments in favour of enslaving the negroes, for their colour has been supposed by the ignorant to mark them as objects of divine judgment, and by the learned to qualify them for labour in hot and unwholesome climates. *Secondly.* We shall add greatly to *their* happiness, for however well they appear to be satisfied with their colour, there are many proofs of their preferring that of the white people. *Thirdly.* We shall render the belief of the whole human race being descended from one pair, easy and universal, and thereby not only add weight to the Christian revelation, but remove a material obstacle to the exercise of that universal benevolence which is inculcated by it."

## CHAPTER V.

### OF LIFE.

THE knowledge of the mode in which the various functions of the body are exercised constitutes the *science of life*. The manifestations of life have consequently been considered already. We have seen, that animal and vegetable substances possess the ordinary properties of matter, but that these properties are singularly controlled, so that they are prevented from undergoing those changes, that inevitably occur so soon as they become deprived of vitality. The human body is prone to decomposition. It is formed of substances extremely liable to undergo putrefaction, and is kept at a temperature the most favourable for such change; yet, so long as life exists, the play of the ordinary affinities is prevented, and this constant resistance to the general forces of matter prevails throughout the whole of existence, even to an advanced old age, when it might be supposed the vital forces must be enfeebled almost to annihilation. The case of solution of the stomach after death, described in the first volume of this work, is an additional and forcible evidence of such resistance. So long as life continues in the stomach, the gastric secretions exert no action on the organ, but, when life becomes extinct, these secretions act upon it in the same manner as they do upon other dead animal matter. What, then, is this mysterious power, possessed of such astonishing, such incomprehensible properties? Our knowledge is limited to the fact above stated, that organized matter, in addition to the general physical and chemical forces, possesses one other,—the *vital force* or *principle* or *vitality*, which, in activity, constitutes *life*.\* This principle exists, not only in the whole, but in every part, of a living body; and its existence is evidenced by the unequivocal signs afforded by the various functions, which we have considered, as well as by others to be presently described. Yet it is not equally evinced in all organs; some appearing to be possessed of more vitality than others,—a result probably produced by diversity of texture, as it would seem irrational

\* Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology, part. ii. a, p. 16, Edinb. 1836. See, also, Prichard, on the Vital Principle, Lond. 1839; Dr. W. B. Carpenter, in Edinb. New Philosophical Journal, April, 1838; Principles of General and Comparative Physiology, Lond. 1839; and art. Life, Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol. Lond. Sept. 1840; and Prof. J. Harrison, An Essay towards a correct Theory of the Nervous System, p. 171, Philad. 1844.

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for us to admit a different kind of vital principle, wherever its *manifunctions* appear to be modified.

Admitting the existence of this controlling principle, what, it may be asked, are the functions through which it immediately acts in keeping up the play of the living machine? It has been elsewhere seen, that, in animals the reciprocal action of innervation and circulation is indispensable, and that if one of these functions be arrested, the other quickly ceases. This is only applicable, however, to animals; and it has been doubted, whether it applies to all and to every part of them, whilst to the vegetable it is altogether inapplicable, unless we regard it, with some physiologists, to possess a rudimental nervous system. The function of sensibility exhibits to us the mode in which the nervous system acts in connecting man with the objects around him, through the agency of volition; but numerous other acts take place within him, altogether uninfluenced by volition, and yet indispensable for the maintenance of existence. These last acts are equally met with in the animal and the vegetable; and hence a division has been made by Bichat,\* into *animal life* and *organic life*:—the former evidenced by those functions, that are peculiar to animals—sensibility and voluntary motion—which require the presence of a great nervous centre, that may receive from, and transmit to, the different parts of the body, the nervous irradiations,—the necessary excitant of the different functions:—the latter evidenced by those functions that are common to animals and vegetables, and are inservient to the nutrition of the frame,—as digestion, absorption, respiration, &c., all of which go on without any direct exercise of volition; and in the vegetable, independently of all nervous influence.

Physiologists may, on this point, be divided into two classes;—they who consider, that the whole of the organic functions are under the government of the nervous influence; and they who think, that the nervous influence does not extend to all the organic functions, but only to the principal of them. The supporters of the first opinion believe, that the agents, or conductors of the nervous influence, are less and less dependent upon the nervous centres, when such exist, the lower the animal is situate in the animal kingdom, and the lower the function; but they consider the nervous influence to be indispensable to every living being, and to every part of such being. In support of this opinion, they are of course compelled to believe, either that a nervous system exists in the vegetable, or that there is a system, which appears to exert over every part of it an influence necessary for its life, and which is, consequently, analogous to the nervous system of animals. The organ of this influence is, by some botanists, considered to be the *medulla* or *pith*;<sup>b</sup>—whence medullary appendages set out to be distributed to every part of the vegetable, and which are particularly abundant in such parts as are charged with very active functions,—as the flower. Brachet<sup>c</sup> maintains this idea,

\* Recherches Physiologiques sur la Vie et la Mort, Paris, 1800.

<sup>b</sup> Sir J. E. Smith's Introduction to Botany, p. 40.

<sup>c</sup> Recherches Expérimentales sur les Fonctions du Système Nerveux Ganglionnaire, &c. Paris, 1830.

and compares the knots of the pith to the ganglions of the nervous system,—destruction of the pith, and especially of these knots occasioning the death of the parts, that receive their filaments from them. Dutrochet, again, considers, that nervous corpuscles exist in the pith of vegetables, which constitute the rudiments of a nervous system; but in the vegetable, this system is diffused, instead of being collected in a mass, as in the animal. The believers in the earlier formation of the nervous system in the fœtus will necessarily be in favour of the first opinion.

The supporters of the second opinion,—that the nervous influence does not extend to all the organic functions,—assert, that it is chiefly exerted on those functions, which are of the highest moment,—the most elevated in animality; that it is less and less in the inferior functions, and ultimately ceases in the lowest acts,—those that immediately accomplish nutrition and reproduction; and the arguments they adduce in favour of their views are, that these lowest acts exist in every living being—vegetable as well as animal; and that in the superior animal, and in man, there are many parts which do not appear to contain nerves. They, moreover, consider the nervous system as one superadded to living beings, not only for life, nutrition, and reproduction, but also, where necessary, for sensation, motion, &c., and hence the prolongations or extensions of this system ought to be sent to the organs of the internal or nutritive functions, for the purpose of connecting them with the organs of the external or sensorial functions; and that it is in these connexions only that innervation consists. In this view, consequently, the nervous influence arises only from the necessity of connecting the organs; is but an indirect condition of life; exists in the upper animals only, and can in no way be invoked to account for vegetable life. The last is, in our view, the most accurate opinion. We cannot, in the present state of knowledge, admit the existence of nerves in the vegetable: certainly no such thing as a nervous centre is discoverable, and yet we find the most complicated acts of nutrition and reproduction exercised by it, and the principle of instinct as strikingly evidenced as in many animals. We are, therefore, irresistibly led to the conclusion, that the manifestations of vitality are not connected with nervous influence, and that the nerves are added, in the upper animals and functions, for other purposes than that of directly communicating vital properties to the parts. This deduction will be found confirmed by the facts to be hereafter mentioned, connected with the independence of the vital property of irritability of the nervous influence.

In the introductory remarks to the first volume of this work, the characters, which distinguish organized from inorganic bodies, were pointed out. All the characters of the former result from the influence of a vital principle, which produces a body of a definite magnitude of shape, structure, composition, and duration. There is, moreover, a power, possessed by bodies endowed with the living principle, of being acted upon by certain stimuli, and of being thrown into movement without the participation of the will. This has, indeed,

by some physiologists, been considered to be the sole vital property,—with what truth we shall see hereafter. An inquiry into its manifestations will aid us materially in determining whether or not the vital principle be effected directly through the medium of the nerves, and will tend to confirm an opinion, which we have already expressed on this subject.

Prior to the time of Haller, the nervous system was looked to as the great source of power in the body; and the contractile power of the muscles,—described at length under the head of Muscular Motion,—was considered to be wholly derived from the nerves, which were supposed to transmit the power to the muscular fibre as it was called for,—accurately regulating the quantity supplied. Haller contended for a *vis insita*, a power of *irritability* or *contractility*, essentially residing in the muscles themselves, independently of any condition of the nervous system, and called into action by stimuli, of which, in the case of the voluntary muscles, the nervous influence is one,—contributing, however, like all other stimuli, to exhaust it, instead of furnishing any fresh supply. We have elsewhere shown, that a muscle is capable of being thrown into contraction after a limb has been removed from the body, and for a considerable period after the cessation of respiration, circulation, and consequently of innervation, provided the appropriate stimuli be applied, so as to excite the *vis insita*, which remains in the muscle for some time after dissolution; and if all the nerves, supplying the limbs of a frog, be divided and cut out close to the place where they enter the muscles, the muscles will still retain their contractility in as great a degree as when the nerves were entire. It has been affirmed by an excellent observer,<sup>a</sup> that after tying the femoral artery or vein, or dividing the sciatic nerve in frogs, the full strength of the muscles remained unaltered for several days—in one case as many as twelve. They, who believe that the contractility of muscles is wholly derived from the nervous system, maintain, however, that in such case, the stimulus may still act, through the medium of the portions of nerves that must always remain attached to the muscle, however carefully attempts may have been made to remove them; and some have supposed, that these nervous fibres may even constitute an essential part of the muscular fibre.<sup>b</sup> The most satisfactory reply, that has been made to this argument, is the following experiment of Dr. Wilson Philip.<sup>c</sup> All the nerves, supplying one of the hind legs of a frog were divided, so that it became completely paralytic. The skin was removed from the muscles of the leg, and salt sprinkled upon them, which, being renewed from time to time, excited contractions in them for twelve minutes: at the end of this time they were found no longer capable of being excited. The corresponding muscles of the other limb, in which the nerves were entire, and of which, consequently, the animal had a perfect command, were then laid bare, and the salt applied to

<sup>a</sup> Valentin, *Lehrbuch der Physiologie des Menschen*, ii. 176-192; cited by Mr. Paget in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.* Jan. 1845, p. 259.

<sup>b</sup> See J. W. Earle's *New Exposition of the Functions of the Nerves*, P. i. Lond. 1833.

<sup>c</sup> An *Experimental Inquiry into the Laws of the Vital Functions*, &c., p. 100, Lond. 1817.

them in the same way. In ten minutes, they ceased to contract, and the animal had lost the command of them. The nerves of this limb were now divided, as those of the other had been, but the excitability of the muscles to which the salt had been applied was gone. Its application excited no contraction in them. After the experiment, the muscles of the thighs in both limbs were found to contract forcibly on the application of salt. It excited equally strong contraction on both sides. In this experiment, the excitability of the muscles, whose nerves were entire, was soonest exhausted; and hence Dr. Philip properly concluded, that the nervous influence, far from bestowing excitability on the muscles, exhausts it like other stimuli; and that the excitability or irritability is a property of the muscle itself.<sup>a</sup> This is confirmed by the fact, that, when the vital properties of nerves are destroyed by the application of narcotic substances, the irritability of the muscle to which they are distributed may remain for some time longer; so that they must be independent of each other.<sup>b</sup>

The opinion of J. Müller is, that if muscular irritability be not dependent upon the brain and spinal cord, they supply some influence essential to its exercise, and in confirmation of it he lays much stress on the loss of irritability of muscles within a few weeks after the section of their nerves. This, however, has been shown by Dr. J. Reid<sup>c</sup> to be owing to the alteration in their nutrition consequent on their disuse. He divided the spinal nerves as they lie in the lower part of the spinal canal in four frogs, and both posterior extremities were thus insulated from their nervous connexions with the spinal cord. The muscles of the paralysed limb were daily exercised by a weak galvanic battery; whilst those of the other limb were permitted to remain quiescent. This was continued for two months; at the end of which time the muscles of the exercised limb retained their original size and firmness, and contracted vigorously, whilst those of the quiescent limb had shrunk to at least one-half of their former bulk, and presented a marked contrast with those of the exercised limb. The muscles of the quiescent limb still retained their contractility, even at the end of two months; but Dr. Reid thought there could be little doubt, that, from their imperfect nutrition, and the progressing changes in their physical structure, this would in no long time have disappeared, had circumstances permitted the prolongation of the experiment.

It seems that this essential characteristic of living bodies is a distinct vital property, not confined, as Haller supposed, to the muscular structure, but exists over the whole body. In favour of its not being dependent upon the nerves, we have the fact of its presence in the

<sup>a</sup> See, on the powers of Life, Dr. W. Philip, in *Lond. Med. Gazette*, for March 18 and 25, 1837; also, a Notice of some Experiments on the Connexion between the Nervous System, and the Irritability of Muscles in Living Animals, by Dr. J. Reid, in the Fourth Report of the British Association, and in *Amer. Journ. of Med. Sciences*, p. 181, Nov. 1835; and Mr. Bowman, art. Muscular Motion, in *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.* Part xxiv. p. 521, July, 1842, and in *The Physiological Anatomy, &c. of Man*, p. 172, Lond. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> Carpenter, *Human Physiology*, § 377, Lond. 1842.

<sup>c</sup> *Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Med. Science*, May, 1841; and *Longet, Comptes Rendus*, Juillet, 1841.

vegetable as well as in the animal. Many plants exhibit this power in a remarkable manner. The barberry bush is one of these. In this flower, the six stamens, spreading moderately, are sheltered under the concave tips of the petals, till some extraneous body, as the feet or trunk of an insect in search of honey, touches the inner part of each filament near the bottom. The irritability of that part is such, that the filament immediately contracts there, and consequently strikes its anther, full of pollen, against the stigma. Any other part of the filament may be touched without this effect, provided no concussion be given to the whole. After a while, the filament retires gradually, and may be again stimulated; and when each petal, with its annexed filament, has fallen to the ground, the latter, on being touched, shows as much irritability as ever. In another plant,—the *Cistus helianthemum*, dwarf *cistus* or lesser *sunflower*,—the filaments, when touched, execute a motion, the reverse of that of the barberry. They retire from the style and lie down, in a spreading form, upon the petals. Owing to the possession of this property, the *Apocynum androsæmifolium* or *dogsbane* is extremely destructive to insect life. Attracted by the honey on the nectary of the expanded blossom, the instant the trunk of the fly is protruded to feed on it, the filaments close, and, catching the fly by the extremity of its proboscis, they detain the insect until its struggles end in death, occasioned apparently by exhaustion alone. The filaments then relax, and the body falls to the ground.\*

These are only evidences, however, of particular parts possessing an unusual degree of irritability. The property exists in every part of the plant, and, as in the animal, is the essential characteristic of the principle of life.

Irritability or contractility forms a medium of communication between the various parts of the living machine, and is excited to action by extraneous influences. All its movements, however, appear to be dependent upon the action of appropriate stimuli, and are, consequently, passively exercised.

1. *Instinct*.—There is a power, which has been conceived to be nearly allied to irritability, and is highly characteristic of organized bodies,—vegetable as well as animal,—whose movements or impulses are active, and most varied. To this power, the term *instinct* has been appropriated by Virey,<sup>b</sup> Fleming,<sup>c</sup> Good,<sup>d</sup> and others. It is an extension of the ordinary acceptance of the term, but it enables us to understand the phenomena better than where we restrict it to those manifestations of man, or animals, that bear the semblance of reason. It is this power, which, according to those gentlemen, regulates the movements, that are requisite to obtain a supply of food, to remove or counteract opposing obstacles, and to fly from impending danger, or repair injuries. "In every organized system," says Dr. Good,<sup>e</sup> "whether animal or vegetable, and in every part of such sys-

\* Sir J. E. Smith's Introduction to Botany, p. 211.

<sup>b</sup> Art. Instinct, in Dict. des Sciences Médicales, xxv. 367.

<sup>c</sup> Philosophy of Zoology, vol. i. 14, Edinb. 1822.

<sup>d</sup> Book of Nature, ii. 114, London, 1826.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. ii. 132.

tem, whether solid or fluid, we trace an evident proof of that controlling, and identifying power, which physiologists have denominated, and with much propriety, the principle of life. Of its cause and nature we know no more than we do of the cause and nature of gravitation, or magnetism. It is neither essential mind nor essential matter; it is neither passion nor sensation; but though unquestionably distinct from all these, is capable of combining with any of them; it is possessed of its own book of laws, to which, under the same circumstances, it adheres without the smallest deviation; and its sole and uniform aim, whether acting generally or locally, is that of health, preservation, or reproduction. The agency, by which it operates, is that which we denominate or should denominate instinct, and the actions, by which its sole and uniform aim is accomplished, are what we mean, or should mean, by instinctive actions; or to speak somewhat more precisely, instinct is the operation of the living principle, whenever manifestly directing its operations to the health, preservation or reproduction of a living frame, or any part of such frame. The law of instinct, then, is the law of the living principle; instinctive actions are the actions of the living principle; and either is that power, which characteristically distinguishes organized from unorganized matter, and pervades and regulates the former, uniformly operating by definite means in definite circumstances to the general welfare of the individual system or of its separate organs, advancing them to perfection, preserving them in it, or laying a foundation for their reproduction, as the nature of the case may require. It applies equally to plants and to animals, and to every part of the plant, as well as to every part of the animal, so long as such part continues alive. It is this, which maintains, from age to age, with so much nicety and precision, the distinctive characters of different kinds and species, which carries off the waste or worn out matter, supplies it with new, and in a thousand instances, suggests the mode of cure, or even effects the cure itself, in cases of injury or disease. It is 'the divinity that stirs within us' of Stahl, the *vis medicatrix naturæ* of Hoffmann and Cullen and the physicians of our day, &c., &c."

Of the existence of this instinctive principle we shall adduce a few examples from both the vegetable and the animal kingdom. When the seed of a plant is deposited in the ground, under circumstances favourable for its developement, it expands, and the root and stem are evolved. The root descends into the ground, manifestly not from the laws of gravitation, but owing to some inherent force, inasmuch as it penetrates the earth; which is of much greater specific gravity than itself. The stem, too, bursts through the earth, and rises into the air, notwithstanding that the air is of much less specific gravity, until having attained the height to which the action of the vital principle limits it, its upward developement ceases. It rarely happens, however, that the root is capable of procuring nourishment sufficient for its future developement in immediate contact with it. It, therefore, sends out numerous filamentous radicles in all directions to search after food, and to convey it to the proper organs. The number and direction of these filaments, and the distance to which they

extend, are regulated by the necessities of the plant, and the supply of the soil. A strawberry offset, planted in sand, will send out almost all its runners in the direction in which the proper soil lies nearest; and few, and sometimes none, in the direction in which it lies most remote.<sup>a</sup> When a tree, which requires much moisture, has sprung up, or been planted in a dry soil, in the vicinity of water, it has been observed, that a much larger portion of its roots has been directed towards the water, and that, when a tree of a different species, and which requires a dry soil, has been placed in a similar situation, it has appeared, in the direction given to its roots, to have avoided the water and moist soil. When a tree, too, happens to grow from seed on a wall, it has been seen, on arriving at a certain size, to stop for a while, and to send down a root to the ground. As soon as this root has been established in the soil, the tree has continued increasing to a large magnitude. The fact has been often noticed with respect to the ash,—a tree, which, in consequence of the profusion of its seed, is found more often scattered in wild and singular places, than in any other not propagated by the agency of birds, or conveyed by the winds.<sup>b</sup>

We find, in all cases, that if the roots of a plant, spreading in search of nourishment, meet with interruption in their course, they do not arrest their progress, but either attempt to penetrate the opposing body, or to avoid it by altering their direction. Dr. Fleming<sup>c</sup> states, that he has repeatedly seen the creeping root of the *Triticum repens* or couch grass piercing a potato, which has obstructed its course. It is well known, too, that roots will pass under a stone wall or a ditch, and rise up on the opposite side. A striking case of this nature was communicated to the author, by his venerable friend, the late Ex-President Madison. The wooden pipes, for the conveyance of water to Mr. Madison's establishment, having become obstructed, they were carefully examined, when it was found, that the roots of a honeysuckle, growing immediately above a plug, made of the wood of the *Liriodendron tulipifera* or American poplar, which is of soft consistence, had penetrated the plug in various places to reach the water, and formed an agglomerated mass in the pipe so as to completely preclude the passage of the water along it.

The nearest approximation to these manifestations of instinct, in the animal, occurs in the formation of the new being, and in the first actions that take place after birth. From the moment of the admixture of the substances, furnished by the parents at a fecundating copulation, there must be a principle existing in the embryo, which directs the construction and arrangement of its organs after a definite manner, and always according to that peculiar to the species. In the egg, this is seen in the most distinct manner. The germ of the chick is surrounded by the nourishment requisite for its formation. Organ after organ becomes successively evolved, until the full period of in-

<sup>a</sup> Fleming, op. citat. p. 16; and Mayo's Outlines of Human Physiology, p. 14, edit 4th, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> Smith's Introduction to Botany, p. 114; and the Sacred History of the World, by Sharon Turner, F. S. A., Amer. edit. i. 168, New York, 1832.

<sup>c</sup> Op. citat. p. 18.



cubation is accomplished, when the young animal breaks the shell. At this time, it has within it a portion of nutriment derived from the yolk drawn into its body. This supplies its wants for a short period; but it soon becomes necessary that it should select and collect food for itself, and we observe it throwing its various organs into action for the prehension, mastication, deglutition, &c., of the food, as if it had been long accustomed to the execution of these functions. In the formation of the human fœtus in utero the same instinctive action is observable in the successive evolution of organs, and in the limitation of the body to a determinate shape, size, structure, &c.; and when these requisites have been attained, the child bursts the membranous envelope, and is extruded, to maintain thenceforth an existence independent of the mother. More helpless, however, than the young of the animal kingdom in general, the infant requires the fostering care of the parent for the purpose of supplying it with the necessary nutriment, but as soon as food is conveyed to the lips, the whole of the complicated process of deglutition is effected for the first time, with the same facility as after long practice. As we descend in the animal kingdom, we find these inward actions constituting instinct more and more largely exhibited. In the quadruped, it is not necessary, that the nipple should be applied by the mother to the mouth of the new-born animal. It is sought for by the latter, invariably discovered, and as invariably seized hold of, by the appropriate organ of prehension, the mouth. The lips are applied; the air is exhausted; and the milk flows according to exact principles of hydrostatics, but without the animal having the least knowledge of the physical process which it accomplishes. Naturalists, indeed, assert, that before the calf has been more than half extruded from the mother, it has been seen to turn around, embrace and suck the maternal teat. As we descend still farther in the scale of creation, we discover the manifestations of instinct yet more signally developed; until, ultimately, in the very lowest classes of animals, the functions are exercised much in the same manner as in the vegetable; and appear to be wholly instinctive, without the slightest evidence of that intelligence, which we observe in the upper classes of the animal kingdom, and pre-eminently in man. This, however, applies only to the very lowest classes; for, a short way higher up the scale, we meet with apparent intelligence, united with instinct, in a manner that is truly surprising and mysterious.

Again, the similarity of the actions of the instinctive principle in the animal and the vegetable is exhibited by the reparatory power which both possess when injuries are inflicted upon them. If a branch be forcibly torn from a tree, the bark gradually accumulates around the wound, and cicatrization is at length accomplished. The great utility of many of our garden vegetables,—as spinach, parsley, cress, &c.—depends upon the possession of a power to repair injuries, so that new shoots speedily take the place of the leaves that have been removed. Similar to this is the reparatory process, instituted in the lobster that has lost its claw, in the water-newt that has lost an extremity, or an eye; in the serpent deprived of its tail, and in the snail that has lost

its head. These parts are reproduced as the leaves are in the spinach or the parsley. Few animals, however, possess the power of restoring lost parts; whilst all are capable of repairing their own wounds when not excessive, and of exerting a sanative power, when labouring under disease. If a limb be torn from the body,—provided the animal should not die from hemorrhage, a reparatory effort is established, and if the severity of the injury should not induce too much irritation in the system, the wound will gradually fill up, and the skin form over it. To a lesser extent we see this power exerted in the healing of ordinary wounds, and in cementing broken bones; and although it may answer the purpose of the surgeon to have it supposed, that he is possessed of healing salves, &c., he is well aware, that the great art, in these cases, is to keep the part entirely at rest, whilst his salves are applied simply for the purpose of keeping the wound moist; the edges in due apposition, where such is necessary, and preventing extraneous bodies from having access to it;—his trust being altogether placed in the sanative influence of the instinctive power situate in the injured part, as in every part of the frame.

It is to this power, that we must ascribe all the properties, assigned to the famous *sympathetic powder* of Sir Kenelm Digby,—which was supposed to have the wonderful property of healing wounds, when merely applied to the bloody clothes of the wounded person; or to the weapon that had inflicted the mischief;—a powder, which, at one time, enjoyed the most astonishing reputation. The wound was, however, always carefully defended from irritation by extraneous substances; and it has been suggested, that the result furnished the first hint, which led surgeons to the improved practice of healing wounds by what is technically called the *first intention*. It is to this instinctive principle, so clearly evinced in surgical or external affections, but at times, not less actively exerted in cases of internal mischief, that the term *vis medicatrix naturæ* has been assigned; and, whatever may be the objections to the views entertained regarding its manifestations in disease, that such a power exists can no more be denied than that organized bodies are possessed of the vital principle. We have too many instances of recovery from injuries, not only without the aid of the practitioner, but even in spite of it, to doubt for a moment, that there is, within every living body, a principle, whose operations are manifestly directed to the health and preservation of the frame, and of every part of such frame.\* So far, then, it is manifest, that the instinctive actions of the animal and vegetable are exerted according to the same laws, and probably through similar organs. This, at least, applies to the lowest of all animated beings, where the difference between them and the vegetable is small indeed. It applies equally to the human fœtus, which can be considered but to vegetate during the greater part of utero-gestation; and even for some time after birth, its actions are purely instinctive, and differ but

\* See the author's "General Therapeutics and Mat. Med.," chap. i. 3d edit., Philad. 1846; art. Autocratia, in Most's Encyclopædie, Zweite Auflage, Band i. s. 242, Leipz. 1836; and Dr. Alison, art. Instinct, Cyclopædia of Anat. and Physiol. part xix, July, 1840.

little from those of the vegetable, except that, owing to the organization of its nervous system, the acts are of a more complicated character. It is only when the brain has become duly developed, and the external senses fully so, that it exhibits so decidedly the difference between those acts, which it had previously accomplished instinctively, and the elevated phenomena of sensibility, which man enjoys so pre-eminently, but which are likewise possessed, to a greater or less extent, by the whole animal creation.

The cells of the ordinary honeycomb are intended for the larvæ of the different varieties of the occupants of the hive. These cells are usually placed horizontally, with their mouths opening towards the sides of the hive. The bottom of the cells, instead of forming one flat square, is composed of three lozenge-shaped pieces, so united as to make the cell end in a point; consequently, the whole forms an hexagonal tube, terminating in a pyramidal cavity. If the two cells had been a single hexagonal tube, intersected in the middle by a flat, instead of a pyramidal, division, not only would the shape not have answered the purpose of the bees, but more wax would have been expended in its construction. Hence, it would seem, that both the body and the base of the tube are adapted for their object; that the greatest strength and the greatest capacity are obtained with the least expenditure of wax in an hexagonal tube with a pyramidal base. Réaumur, when inquiring into the habitudes of these industrious animals, requested König, an able mathematician, to solve the following question:—among all the hexagonal tubes with pyramidal bases, composed of three similar and equal rhombs, to determine that which, having the same capacity, can be constructed with the least possible quantity of matter? König, not aware of the precise object of Réaumur's inquiry, solved the problem, and found,—that if three rhombs or lozenges were so inclined to each other that the great angles measured  $109^{\circ} 28'$ , and the little angles  $70^{\circ} 34'$ , the smallest possible quantity of matter would be needed. Maraldi measured the angles actually formed at the bottom of a cell, and found that the great angles gave  $109^{\circ} 28'$ , and the little  $70^{\circ} 32'$ . All this, however, may be ascribed to blind instinct, proceeding uniformly in the same track, without any evidence of the admixture of reason; but we have innumerable instances, in the same insects, to show, that their operations are varied according to circumstances, and that intelligence is manifestly expended in the adaptation of their means to definite purposes. Of this we shall give but one example. Huber, whose inquiries into this part of entomology have been singularly minute and accurate, having had great ravages committed on his hives by the *sphinx atropos* or *death's-head moth*, determined to construct a grating, which should admit the bee but not the moth. He did so, and the devastation ceased. He found, however, that in other hives, not protected by his agency, the bees had adopted a similar expedient for their defence; and these defences were variously constructed in different hives. "Here, was a single wall whose opening arcades were disposed at its higher part; there, were several bulwarks behind each other, like the bastions of our citadels: gateways, masked by walls

in front, opened on the face of the second rows, while they did not correspond with the apertures of the first. Sometimes, a series of intersecting arcades permitted free egress to the bees, but refused admittance to their enemies. These fortifications were massy, and their substance firm and compact, being composed of propolis and wax." It would be endless, however, and beyond the design of this work, to enumerate the various evidences of intelligence exhibited by the insect tribe, in fulfilling the ends for which they have been destined by the Great Author of nature.<sup>a</sup>

In all our reasonings on the subject of instinct, we must be compelled to admit, in the case of most animals at least, a degree of intelligence that strikingly modifies those actions, the impulse to which is doubtless laid in organization. The precise line of demarcation between instinctive acts and reason cannot, however, be established, and this has led some philosophers to call in question the existence of the former. It is owing to this union of intelligence with instinct, that we find animals accommodating themselves to circumstances, so that if prevented from adopting the habits that belong to the species, they have recourse to others as similar as possible. Thus, if a bird be prevented from building its nest in a particular situation, or from obtaining the material, which birds of its own species employ, it has recourse to other materials and to another situation, as like those that are appropriate to it as is practicable. The rook usually and instinctively builds its nest on the summit of the tallest trees: but Dr. Darwin,—who is one of those that call in question the influence of instinct,—asserts, that in Welbourn churchyard, a rookery was formed on the outside of the spire, and on the tops of the loftiest windows. There had formerly been a row or grove of high trees in the neighbourhood, which had been cut down, and, in consequence, the birds exhibited the union of intelligence with instinct, by building on the lofty spire and windows. In like manner, the jackdaws of Selbourne, according to Mr. White, not finding a sufficiency of steeples and lofty houses on which to hang their nests in that village, accommodated themselves to circumstances, and built them in forsaken rabbit burrows.<sup>b</sup>

By Stahl,<sup>c</sup> and the animists in general, as well as by more recent philosophers, all the phenomena of instinct have been referred to experience, so obscure as not to be easily traceable, but not the less certainly existent. The insect tribes, however, furnish us with many cases where the young being can never see its parents, and can, of course, derive no benefit from the experience of its progenitors; yet their habits are precisely what they have probably ever been; so uniform, indeed, as to compel us to refer them to some constant impulse

<sup>a</sup> For numerous examples of the kind, see Alison, art. Instinct, *Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol.*, July, 1840. See, also, Swainson, *On the Habits and Instincts of Animals*, in *Cabinet Cyclopaedia*, Lond. 1840; Lord Brougham, *A Discourse on Instinct*, Amer. edit. p. 46, Philad. 1845; and Kirby and Spence, *Introduction to Entomology*, 1st Amer. from 6th Lond. edit. p. 568. Philad. 1846.

<sup>b</sup> *Natural History of Selbourne*, with additions, by Sir W. Jardine, Amer. edit. p. 82, Philad. 1832; Alison, art. Instinct, *Cyclop. Anat. and Phys.*, July, 1840.

<sup>c</sup> *Theoria Vera Medica*, Hal. 1737.

connected with their special organization, and, consequently, instinctive. In support of the existence of these natural impulsions, the common occurrence of a brood of young ducks, brought up under a hen, may be adduced.\* These little beings, soon after they have broken the shell, and contrary to all the feelings and instincts of the foster-mother, will seek the water, and suddenly plunge into it, whilst the hen herself does not dare to follow them. By what kind of experience or observation,—it has been asked,—by what train of thought or reasoning has the scarcely fledged brood been able to discern that a web-foot adapts them for swimming? Any experience they can have derived must have taught them to shun the water; yet, notwithstanding this, instinct points out to them the habitudes to which they are adapted, and its indications are obeyed in spite of every kind of counter-experience. Attempts have occasionally been made to domesticate the *wild turkey* of this continent, by bringing the young up under the common turkey, but they have always resumed the way of life to which instinct has directed them, when opportunity offered; in accordance with the Horatian maxim:

“Naturam expellas furcâ, tamen usque recurret.”

Mr. Madison reared, with great care, a young hawk, which, for a long time, associated with the young of the poultry, without exhibiting the slightest carnivorous or migratory propensity, until, on one occasion, whilst some of his friends were admiring its state of domestication, it suddenly arose in the air, darted down, and seized a chicken, with which it flew to a neighbouring tree, and, after it had finished its repast, took flight, and was never seen afterwards.

Instinct, then, is possessed by every organized body, animal and vegetable; whilst intelligence is the attribute of those only that are endowed with a certain nervous developement. They are, therefore, manifestly distinct;—the former predominating over the latter in the lower classes of animals; whilst, in the upper classes, intelligence becomes more and more predominant, until, ultimately, in man, it is so ascendant as to appear to be the main regulator of the functions: indeed, some have altogether denied the existence of instinct in him. Instinct is seated in every part of a living body; is totally independent of the nervous system; occurs in the vegetable and the zoophyte unprovided with nerves, or at least in which nerves have never been discovered; whilst intelligence is always accompanied by a nervous system, without which, indeed, its existence is incomprehensible. How can we, consequently, accord with those physiologists who place the seat of instinct in the organic nervous system; and that of intelligence in the brain? Where is the organic nervous system of the zoophyte, and *a fortiori* of the vegetable? Or how can we admit the seat of the various instincts to be in the encephalon, seeing that we have them exhibited where there is neither encephalon nor any thing resembling one. The acephalous fœtus undergoes its full developement in other respects in utero, with the same regularity as to shape and size as the perfect fœtus; and can we deny it the existence

\* Good's Book of Nature, ii. 118, Lond. 1826.

of instinct? Yet, in the upper classes of animals especially, many of the manifestations of instinct are effected through the nervous system, which, in them, as we have elsewhere seen, seems to hold in control the various functions of the frame, and to be one of the two great requisites for the existence of vitality. The instinctive action in the appropriate organ, which gives rise to the internal sensations of hunger, thirst, &c., is communicated to the great nervous centres by the nerves, and the brain responds to the impression, and excites, through the medium of the nerves, the various organs into action which are calculated to accomplish the monitions of the instinct.

What is the nature of this instinctive property? Of this we know no more than we do of the principle of life, of which it is one of the manifestations. It is equally inscrutable with the imponderable agents, light, caloric, electricity, or magnetism, or with the mode of existence of the immaterial principle within us, which gives rise to the mental phenomena: we see it only in its results, which, are in many cases, as unequivocal as those produced by the agents just referred to. All, perhaps, that we are justified in concluding is—with Dr. Good—that instinct is the operation of the principle of organized life, by the exertion of certain *natural* powers, directed to the present or future good of the individual, whilst reason is the operation of the principle of intellectual life, by the exercise of certain *acquired* powers directed to the same object; that the former appertains to the whole organized mass as gravitation does to the whole unorganized; actuating alike the smallest and the largest portions; the minutest particles and the bulkiest systems; and every organ, and every part of every organ, whether solid or fluid, so long as it continues alive; that, like gravitation, it exhibits, under special circumstances, different modifications, different powers, and different effects; but that, like gravitation, too, it is subject to its own division of laws, to which, under definite circumstances, it adheres without the slightest deviation; and that its sole and uniform aim, whether acting generally or locally, is that of perfection, preservation, or reproduction.

In this view, *reason* demands discipline, and attains maturity; *instinct*, on the contrary, neither requires the one, nor is capable of attaining the other. It is mature from the first, and equally so in the infant as in the adult.\*

2. VITAL PROPERTIES.—The great cause of all those mysterious phenomena, which characterize living bodies, and distinguish them by such broad demarcations from the dead, has been a theme of anxious inquiry in all ages; and has ever ended in the supposition of some special abstract force, to which the epithet *vital* has been assigned, and which has received various appellations. Hippocrates designated it by the terms *ψυχή*, and *σπέρμα*; Aristotle styled it the *animating* or *motive and generative principle*; Van Helmont, the *archæus*; Stahl, *anima*; Barthez and Hunter, *vital principle*, &c., &c. Yet as Dr.

\* See, also, on this subject, Fletcher's *Rudiments of Physiology*, Part ii. 6, p. 16, Edinb. 1836; J. S. Bushnan, *The Philosophy of Instinct and Reason*, Edinb. 1837; Brit. and For. Med. Rev., Jan. 1841; and Flourens, *Eloge de F. Cuvier*, Paris, 1840.

Barclay<sup>a</sup> has correctly observed, all physiological writers—ancient and modern—seem to be agreed, that the causes of life and organization are utterly invisible, whether they pass under the name of animating principles, (Aristotle, Harvey, &c.,) vital principles, (Barthez,) indivisible atoms, spermatic powers, organic particles of organic germs, (Buffon,) formative appetencies or formative propensities, (Darwin,) formative forces, (Needham,) formative *nisus* or *Bildungsstrieb*, (Blumenbach,) pre-existing monads, (Leibnitz,) *semina rerum*, (Lucretius,) plastic natures, (Cudworth,) occult qualities, or certain unknown chemical affinities. “All seem agreed, that whatever they be, they have been operating since the world began, and throughout the world operating regularly, without intermission, in various places at the same time. All seem agreed, that their modes of operation are strictly methodical; that they seem to act on definite plans, and actually exhibit specific varieties of chemical combination, and mechanical structure, which human intelligence cannot comprehend, much less explain. From their mutual dependence, and other relations subsisting between them, all seem to speak as if they were subject to one great cause, which regulates and harmonizes the whole.” All seem to speak of this great cause as if it were eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent; whether it be the element of fire, of air, or of water, or whether it be fate, nature, necessity, or a God.”

By virtue of this principle of life, every organized tissue is possessed of certain *properties*, to which the term *vital* has been assigned. Regarding the precise number of these properties, physiologists are not agreed. Whilst some have reckoned many; others have admitted but one. All the functions, which we have hitherto considered, are under the influence of life, and are products of the vital properties seated in the tissues; but we do not consider them to be directly caused by these properties. Digestion, for example, is executed by a series of organs, all of which are conducive to a certain result, the aggregate constituting the function of digestion. The result of the action of the salivary gland is very different from that of the liver, yet both operations are vital, but modified by the different organization of the two glands. We do not ascribe the difference to a difference in the vital properties of the glands. These are probably the same in both; and are seated in the primary tissues, of which all the more compound textures and organs are built up. They are primary or fundamental properties of living matter.

Stahl, having observed obscure, oscillatory movements, alternate contraction and expansion in certain parts of the body, either during the exercise of a function, or on the application of some external agent, conceived, that every part of the frame is, at all times, more or less susceptible of similar movements. These movements he termed *tonic*, their effect upon the organs *tonæ*, and the property by which

<sup>a</sup> An Inquiry into the Opinions, ancient and modern, concerning Life and Organization, Edinb. 1822; and Rallier, *art. Force*, in *Dict. de Méd.* ix. 318, Paris, 1834. See, also, Todd and Bowman, *Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of Man*, Part i. p. 17, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> A. F. Hombel, *Einleitung in die Physiologie und Pathologie der Menschlichen Organismus*, p. 93, Götting. 1839.

they were induced he esteemed peculiar to organization, and termed *tonicity*. This vital property, he conceived, influences the progression of the fluids in the vessels; the phenomena of exhalation and absorption, and is totally distinct from the properties possessed by inorganic bodies.

Haller<sup>a</sup> admitted two vital properties, very different from each other, which seemed to him, to be equally elementary. By the one of these a living part exhibits itself to be *sensible*, or transmits to the sensorium an impression made upon it, either by an extraneous body, or by its own internal and organic action; by the other, a part contracts in a manner appreciable to the senses, either by the influence of the will, or of some external or internal stimulus. The first of these he considered to be a special vital property, which he termed *sensibility*; and the second to be another, which he called *irritability*. Prior to his time the word irritability had been adopted by Glisson,<sup>b</sup> who had noticed the fact that living matter is acted upon by *irritants* of various kinds in a mode no wise analogous to physical and chemical motions, and hence he concluded, that every organ of the human frame possesses an inherent and peculiar force, which presides over its movements, and is requisite for the exercise of its functions. This force he called *irritability*. De Gorter<sup>c</sup> subsequently extended the views of Glisson, and applied them to the vegetable, affirming irritability to be the sole vital property of all organized bodies, vegetable as well as animal. The acceptation, given to the term by Haller, was consequently more limited. He restricted it to those motions of parts which fall under the observation of the senses; such as the contraction of the voluntary muscles, the heart, &c. He made numerous experiments on living animals, for the purpose of discovering what parts are possessed or not of the true properties of *sensibility* or *irritability*, and he concluded, that the former resides exclusively in the nervous,—the latter in the muscular, system. Dr. Marshall Hall<sup>d</sup> still employs the term in the restricted sense of Haller.

This celebrated theory, which formed so large a part of physiological science at one time, and is still an interesting topic to the physiologist, has been referred to in so many parts of this work, as to require but few comments in this place. We have seen that many of the parts, regarded by Haller as insensible, are acutely sensible in disease, and that we cannot pronounce a part to be positively insensible, until we have applied every kind of irritant to it without effect. We have elsewhere defined sensibility to be an exclusive property of the nervous system; and have attempted to show, that irritability is a property of the muscular tissue—a *vis insita*—totally independent of the nerves, but of which the nervous fluid is an appropriate excitant. As, however, the vital properties of sensibility and irritability were restricted by Haller to the nervous and muscular

<sup>a</sup> Element. Physiol.; and Mémoire sur la Nature Sensible et Irritable des parties de Corps. Lausan. 1756.

<sup>b</sup> De Ventriculo, in Manget. Bibl. Anatom. i. 80. Genev. 1699.

<sup>c</sup> Medicin. Compendium. Lugd. Bat. 1742.

<sup>d</sup> Art. Irritability, Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., July, 1840.



systems, they were regarded to be insufficient for the explanation of the various living actions of the frame: the next step was to extend them to every part and to every tissue. It was found, for example, that on investigating the most minute movements of parts, these movements were always preceded by an impression, to which they seemed sensible, and which appeared to excite their actions. This general property, common to every living part, of receiving an impression, was called *sensibility*;—thus generalizing the property, which Haller had restricted to perceptivity by the mind. Every part was said to be *sensible* to the blood sent to it for its nutrition. Again, every part was observed to move in consequence of the impression it received, sometimes in an apparent manner, as the heart; at others, too slightly for its movements to be recognised otherwise than by the results,—as in the case of the glandular organs; but always in a manner special to organized matter, and not analogous to any physical or chemical process. This motion was, therefore, referred to another force called *motility*, which was nothing more than irritability generalized. These two properties are alone admitted by most modern writers. Every organ is said to *feel* and to *move*, after its manner, in the performance of its function;—the stomach in digestion; the heart in propelling the blood; the muscle in contracting, and the nerve in transmitting sensitive impressions to the brain.

Many modern physiologists, whilst they admit the properties of sensibility and motility, have reckoned a greater number of vital properties: this is owing to their having observed that each part has its own peculiar mode of sensibility and motility, and when these modes have seemed to differ largely from each other, they have elevated them into so many special vital properties. The chief modern theories on the vital properties are those of Barthez, Blumenbach, Chaussier, Dumas, and Bichat. Barthez<sup>a</sup> admitted five, which we can do no more than enumerate,—*sensibility, force of contraction, force of expansion or active dilatation, force of fixed situation, and tonicility*. Blumenbach,<sup>b</sup> also admitted five;—*sensibility, irritability, contractility, vita propria or proper force of life, nisus formativus—force of formation or Bildungstrieb*. Dumas<sup>c</sup> referred all the living phenomena to four vital properties; *sensibility, motility, force of assimilation, and force of vital resistance*. The theory of Bichat<sup>d</sup> on this subject requires a more detailed notice. He, also, admitted five vital properties; *organic sensibility, insensible organic contractility, sensible organic contractility, animal sensibility, and animal contractility*. *First. Organic sensibility* is the faculty, possessed by every living fibre of receiving an impression, or of being modified by contact, so that the modification is restricted to the part that experiences it, and is not transmitted to the brain. The term *sensibility* was adopted by Bichat because already established, and the epithet *organic* was added, to affirm that it is the exclusive attribute of organized bodies,

<sup>a</sup> *Nouveaux Elémens de la Science de l'Homme*. Paris, 1806.

<sup>b</sup> *Institutiones Physiologicae*, Gotting. 1786; or Elliotson's translation.

<sup>c</sup> *Principes de Physiologie*, 2de édit. Paris, 1806.

<sup>d</sup> *Anatomie Générale*, tom. i.; and *Recherches Physiologique sur la Vie et la Mort*. Paris, 1800.

and common to all. This property is not only modified in each organ—as the difference in their nutrition and functions demonstrates—but it adapts each organ to its appropriate external stimulant, so that the salivary gland shall be specially influenced by mercury; the upper part of the small intestine by calomel; the lower by aloes, &c., &c. Its exercise is continuous, involuntary, known only by its results, and is more marked as we descend in the scale of animal life; whilst animal sensibility is the contrary. *Secondly. Insensible organic contractility* is the faculty possessed by every living part, of moving in an imperceptible manner, in consequence of an impression immediately received, without either the mind having consciousness of the motion, the will participating, or the brain in any manner directing it. We have an example of this in the action of the stomach during digestion; and of every part of the body on the blood sent to it for its nutrition. Bichat applied the term *insensible organic contractility* to this property, for the following reasons:—*contractility*, because contraction is the kind of motion which constitutes it; *organic*, because it is common to all living beings; and *insensible*, because the brain has no consciousness of it. Like organic sensibility, it is modified in each organ. Its exercise is likewise continuous and involuntary; and it also exhibits itself more intensely as we descend in the scale of beings. It always co-exists with organic sensibility. *Thirdly. Sensible organic contractility* is the same motive faculty as the last, with this difference, that the movements induced by it fall under the senses and are recognised independently of their results. This property is likewise modified in each organ; its exercise is also involuntary, and it only differs from the last in degree,—the movement that constitutes it being apparent. Thus, the heart contracts independently of the will, but its motions are not imperceptible, as in the cases which belong to the second vital property—*insensible organic contractility*. *Fourthly. Animal sensibility* is the property possessed by certain organs of transmitting to the mind, through the medium of the brain, the consciousness of impressions, which they have received. It is sensibility in the restricted acceptation of Haller. The epithet *animal* was given to it by Bichat, to distinguish it from the other variety of sensibility, which belongs to all organized bodies, whilst this is exclusively possessed by animals. The whole of the attributes of this property have been detailed at much length in the first volume of this work. *Fifthly.* Bichat admitted a fifth vital property, under the name *animal contractility*, which comprised voluntary muscular contraction;—treated of elsewhere as one of the functions of the body. It differs from organic contractility, in its exciting causes not being seated in the organ in which it is developed,—that is, in the muscles,—but in the brain; and, moreover, whilst the other varieties of contractility are irresistibly connected with, and proportioned to, the kind of sensibility correspondent to them, such is not the case with animal sensibility, and its play is never continuous.

From the distinction we have endeavoured to draw between the fundamental vital properties and the functions, it will be obvious that

the ingenious division of Bichat is susceptible of farther curtailment by analysis. A vital property must be one possessed by all living bodies; it is fundamental in the tissues, and differs according to the precise structure of the tissue. It is found in the vegetable as well as in the animal. Neither of the two last properties of Bichat, however, corresponds with this definition. They do not exist in the vegetable. They require not only a nervous system, but a brain, that can conceive and will. They are both, indeed, complicated functions, and, as such, have been considered at great length elsewhere. By ultimate analysis, therefore, the five vital properties of Bichat may be reduced to two,—*sensibility* and *motility*. Perhaps we ought to rest satisfied with the admission, that every primary tissue is capable of being acted upon by appropriate stimuli or is *sensible*; and that it possesses the additional property of *moving* in consequence of such impression. Physiologists have, however, attempted to simplify the subject still farther, and to reduce the vital properties to one only. Such is the view of Broussais, who considers *contractility* to be the fundamental vital property of all the tissues. Adelon considers, that *sensibility* is the only living property that should be admitted, which must carry with it the idea of motion, and is the active, motive faculty of living matter. The term *sensibility* is, however, unfortunate, in consequence of its conveying the notion of mental perception, and of such acceptance having been received into physiology to designate a function. It has, consequently, been proposed to substitute the term *excitability*, *incitability* or *irritability*, but with the same signification. Rudolphi<sup>a</sup> prefers *incitability*, (*Erregbarkeit*), as not liable to the objection that may be urged against the others, of having been employed in other significations. This incitability differs in the different organs and tissues: in the muscles he terms it *irritability* (*Muskelkraft*, *Reizbarkeit*); in the nerves, *sensibility* (*Nervenkraft*, *Empfindlichkeit*); and by some physiologists, in the membranous parts, it is called *contractility* (*Spannkraft*, *Zusammenziehungskraft*).<sup>b</sup>

3. LIFE OF THE BLOOD.—Such are the phenomena which indicate the existence of the vital principle, and such the laws by which it seems to be governed. By certain physiologists it is considered to influence solids only: by others it has been considered to reside in the fluids also, and especially in the blood. The notion of the vitality of this fluid was espoused by John Hunter,<sup>c</sup> and to him we are indebted for many of the facts and arguments adduced in its favour, which have impelled the generality of modern physiologists to admit its existence. The analogy of the egg had demonstrated that life is not restricted to substances which are solid and visibly organized. The fresh egg, like other living bodies, possesses the ordinary counteracting powers communicated by vitality, and resists

<sup>a</sup> Grundriss der Physiologie.

<sup>b</sup> For various views on the subject of irritability, see Alison, art. Contractility, Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., i. 717, London, 1836; Adelon, Physiologie de l'Homme, 2de édit., iv. 547, Paris, 1829; and Dr. Hall, art. Irritability, Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., July, 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Treatise on the Blood, &c., p. i., ch. i.

those agents which act upon the dead egg as on other animal substances deprived of the living influence. The fresh egg may be exposed for weeks, with impunity, to a degree of heat which would inevitably occasion the putrefaction of the dead egg. During the time of incubation, the egg of the hen is kept for three weeks at a heat of  $105^{\circ}$ ; yet when the chick is hatched, the remaining yolk is perfectly sweet. The power of resisting cold is equally great. Dr. Hunter performed several experiments, which show the power of the vital principle in resisting cold, and the influence of cold in diminishing the energy of the principle. He exposed an egg to the temperature of  $17^{\circ}$  and of  $15^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit, and found that it took about half an hour to freeze it. When thawed, and again exposed to a temperature of  $25^{\circ}$ , it was frozen in one-half the time. He then put a fresh egg, and one that had previously been frozen and again thawed, into a cold mixture at  $15^{\circ}$ ; the dead egg was frozen twenty-five minutes sooner than the fresh.<sup>a</sup> These experiments led to the legitimate inference, that the egg possessed the principle of life, and, although fluid, must have enjoyed the properties which we have described to be characteristic of vitality,—of being acted upon by an appropriate irritant, and of moving responsive to the irritation.

Similar results to those obtained with the egg followed analogous experiments with the blood. On ascertaining the degree of cold, and the length of time necessary to freeze blood taken immediately from the vessel, he found that, as in the egg, a much shorter period, and a much less degree of cold, were requisite to freeze blood that had been previously frozen and thawed, than blood recently taken from the vessel. The inference deduced from this was, that the vitality of recent blood being comparatively unimpaired, it was enabled to resist cold longer than blood whose vital energy had already been partly exhausted by previous exposure. It would appear, however, that the vital principle in fishes can resist the action of frost. Those that were caught by Captain Franklin's party in Winter Lake froze as they were taken out of the nets, and became in a short time a solid mass of ice; yet they were alive when thawed.<sup>b</sup>

The fluidity of the blood, whilst circulating in the vessels, has been regarded as an additional evidence of its vitality. It is obvious that such fluidity is indispensable, seeing that it has to circulate through the minute vessels of the capillary system, and that the slightest coagulum forming in them would lead to morbid derangements. Yet the blood is peculiarly liable to become solid by its constitution, and whenever it is removed from its vessels it coagulates. This is not owing simply to the cessation of its circulation, for if it be kept at the same temperature as in the living body, and be made to circulate with equal rapidity through a dead tube, it equally becomes solid. The cause, consequently, that maintains its fluidity, is the vital agency; or, as J. Müller remarks, the proper combination of its ele-

<sup>a</sup> Philosoph. Transact., 1778, pp. 29, 30.

<sup>b</sup> See page 207 of this volume; and Dr. W. B. Carpenter, art. Life, Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., Sept. 1840.

ments is maintained so long only as the blood is under the influence of living surfaces,—that is, of the vessels. The experiments of Shröder van der Kolk<sup>a</sup> show, that coagulation takes place with extraordinary rapidity after the brain and spinal marrow have been broken down; even in a few minutes after the operation, coagula were found in the great vessels. Mayer observed, that after the application of a ligature to the pneumogastric nerve the blood coagulated in the vessels, and death was thus produced. Sir Asley Cooper, on repeating the experiment, found that the conversion of venous into arterial blood in the lungs was prevented. Of four experiments, however, which were performed under the direction of J. Müller,<sup>b</sup>—two on dogs and two on rabbits,—although the animals were examined immediately after death, which resulted from the ligature of the pneumogastrics, in two cases only was a small coagulum; of the size of a pea, discovered in the left side of the heart—none in the pulmonary vessels. Another argument in favour of the vitality of the blood is drawn from the facts connected with its coagulation,—facts which show that the process is but little influenced by physical agents, and which have induced Magendie<sup>c</sup> to infer, with many other physiologists, who are but little disposed to invoke the vital agency, “that the coagulation of the blood cannot be ascribed to any physical influence, but must be esteemed essentially vital, and as affording a demonstrative proof that the blood is endowed with life.” It has, indeed, been attempted to show, that there are certain phenomena which demonstrate that the vitality of this fluid increases or diminishes with the vitality of other parts of the body. When blood is drawn from a vessel it does not instantly coagulate or die; and, by observing the length of time consumed in the process, it has been thought that we might, in some measure, be able to estimate the degree of vital energy it possesses. In diseases where the vital action is exalted,—as in inflammation,—the blood is found to coagulate more slowly than in a state of health, and the coagulation itself is more perfect, whilst in diseases that are dependent upon a diminution of the vital energy, the opposite is the fact; because, in the first case, it is presumed the blood possesses the vital principle in a higher degree than natural, and consequently resists, for a longer period, the influence of the physical agents to which it is exposed; whilst, in the second case, it possesses the vital principle to a less degree than natural, and therefore yields sooner to the influence of those agents,—the coagulation, in all instances, being analogous to the rigidity of the muscles which takes place after dissolution, and indicates the final cessation of vitality or the last act of life.<sup>d</sup>

The *buffy coat* or *inflammatory crust* of the blood, called, also, *corium phlogisticum*, and *crusta pleuretica*—the nature of which has been investigated before (vol. ii., p. 118),—is a circumstance connect-

<sup>a</sup> Comment de Sanguin. Coagul. Groning. 1820; and Diss. sist. Sanguin. Coagul. Groning. 1820; also, J. Müller's Handbuch, u. s. w., and Baly's transl., p. 97, Lond. 1838.

<sup>b</sup> Op. cit., p. 98.

<sup>c</sup> Précis de Physiologie, 2de édit., ii. 234, Paris, 1825.

<sup>d</sup> See, on the Evidences of the Life of the Blood, from its self-motion, p. 164, of this volume.

ed with the blood's presumed life, which has been invoked by the supporters of this view of the subject. These terms are applied to an appearance of the crassamentum, which is dependent upon its upper portion containing no red particles, but exhibiting a layer of a buff-colored coriaceous substance, lying at the top, owing to the red particles during coagulation, sinking to the lower portion of the clot, before coagulation is completed; hence, the coagulated state of the upper surface. At the same time, the whole of the coagulated portion is much firmer than usual. The red particles, in such case, have time to subside before the coagulation is complete, which takes place more slowly than in health; and this is conceived to be owing to the blood's possessing a higher degree of vitality. These experiments of Mr. Thackrah, which consisted in reserving some experiments of Mr. Thackrah, a view which is confirmed by blood, taken from the vessels of a living animal in a full and interrupted stream, into different cups, and noting the time at which coagulation commenced in each. Blood, for example, was taken from a horse at four periods, about a minute and a half being allowed to intervene between the filling of each cup. In the first cup, coagulation began in eleven minutes and ten seconds; in the second cup, in ten minutes and four seconds; in the third cup, in nine minutes and thirty-five seconds; and in the fourth cup, in three minutes and twenty seconds. In another experiment, blood was drawn into three separate cups from the veins of a slaughtered ox, the first of which was filled in the first flow; the second, about three minutes afterwards; and the third, a short time before the death of the animal. Coagulation commenced, in the first cup, in two minutes and thirty seconds; in the second, in one minute and thirty-five seconds; and in the third, in one minute and ten seconds. In a similar experiment, coagulation commenced in the first cup, in two minutes and ten seconds; in the second, in one minute and forty-five seconds; and in the third, in thirty-five seconds. Similar phenomena are found to occur in a human subject. Blood, to the amount of about a pint and a half, was taken from the arm of a female labouring under fever. A portion of this, received into a cup on its first effusion, remained fluid seven minutes; a similar quantity, taken immediately before tying up the arm, was coagulated in three minutes and thirty seconds. Of blood taken as in the last experiment from the arm of a man, the first portion began to coagulate in seven minutes; the last in four. The vitality of the system, and with it the vitality of the blood, may be diminished by each successive abstraction of that fluid, it coagulated and more enfeebled. It is proper to observe, however, that the blood may remain fluid in the vessels, and coagulate when removed from them, long after the death of the body. In a case observed by the author, it flowed freely from the vessels of the brain and coagulated

\* An Inquiry into the Nature and Properties of the Blood, in Health and in Disease, Lond. 1819.  
 See, on this subject, Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology, part. ii. a, p. 45, Edinb. 1836; Mandl, Archiv. Génér. de Méd. Nov. 1840; or Encycl. des Sciences, Méd., Dec. 1840, p. 248; and Manuel d'Anatomie Générale, p. 224, Paris, 1843; and Ansell, Lect. Oct. 26, p. 145, and Dec. 21, 1839, p. 460.

fifteen hours after the total cessation of respiration and circulation;<sup>a</sup> and many such cases have been observed by others.<sup>b</sup> They would seem to show, that the phenomenon of coagulation is wholly physical in its nature, and not the last act of its vitality, as is held by some.<sup>c</sup> It is affirmed by M. Buisson,<sup>d</sup> that the same fact has been observed in regard to the chyle. In one case it was fluid in a man twenty-four hours after death, but soon coagulated after its escape from the vessels.

It is, according to Dr. Carpenter, in the buffy coat of inflammatory blood, that we see the clearest indications of organization ever presented by the circulatory fluid. The fibrous network is frequently extremely distinct, and usually includes a large number of white corpuscles in its meshes. The most marked evidences, however, of organization in the blood are those presented by polypous concretions, which form, at times, in the heart some time before dissolution.

If it be granted that some of the above and other arguments lead to a belief in the vitality of the blood, they are equally favourable,—many of them at least,—to the presence of life in the chyle, which, we have seen, closely resembles the blood in its properties, except in that of coloration; and if we admit the blood to be possessed of life, a question arises, respecting the part at which the nutritive substances, taken into the system, become converted into the nature of the being they are destined to nourish, and receive the principle of life. This must be either through the admixture of the fluids poured out from the supra-diaphragmatic portion of the alimentary canal, or from those of the stomach or small intestine, or owing to the mysterious and inappreciable agency of the chyliferous radicles themselves, which separate the same fluid, chyle, from every substance that may be submitted to their action. A reference to what has been said, on these topics, under the heads of *Digestion* and *Absorption*, will lead to the opinion, that no vitalizing influence is exerted on the food in the stomach and intestines, and therefore that the infusion of vitality—if the expression may be allowed—must take place in the chyliferous vessels. As to the mode in which the blood becomes vitalized, great doubt must necessarily exist. The general opinion, perhaps, is, that it is obtained from the organic nerves, distributed to the inner coats of the vessels, and this idea is confirmed by an experiment of the late Mr. Thackrah, which showed, that blood, received into a dead vessel, is always more speedily coagulated than when it is retained by ligature in a living vessel: thence he inferred, that the vitality of the vessel affects the blood, and retards its coagulation. Mr. Thackrah

<sup>a</sup> Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, for May, June, and July, 1840, p. 216; and Amer. Med. Intelligencer, Aug. 1, 1840.

<sup>b</sup> The fact was repeatedly noticed by Professor S. Jackson, in the bodies of those who died in Philadelphia of the yellow fever of 1820. See J. Davy, *Researches, Physiological and Anatomical*, ii. 190, Lond. 1839; or Dunglison's *Amer. Med. Lib. edit.*, Philad. 1840. A case has been given recently by Dr. Polli, in which the blood did not coagulate completely till fifteen days after it was drawn. *Gazette Medica di Milano*, 20 Gennaio, 1844, cited by Mr. Paget, in *Brit. and For. Med. Rev.*, Jan. 1845, p. 253.

<sup>c</sup> Carpenter, *Principles of Human Physiology*, 2d edit. p. 516, Lond. 1844.

<sup>d</sup> *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, 29 Juin 3 and 17, Août, &c. 1844.

denies, indeed, the life of the blood, and ascribes all the evidences of it, which it exhibits, to the influence exerted by the living vessels on their contents. These are the only fluids that have been suspected to be endowed with vitality. None of the others exhibit analogous phenomena, when exposed to similar agencies.

On the whole, we are led to the conclusion, that the vital principle animates both solids and fluids, but all that we seem to know regarding it is—in the language of Dr. Barclay\*—"that all the organisms of animals and plants are formed out of fluids, and that in a certain species of fluid, secreted from the parent, and afterwards enclosed in a very thin and transparent vesicle, there is a living organizing principle, which also acts upon the fluid in a way which we know not, forming out of it a regularly organized system of solids, and forming not only the rudiments of that system, but causing it afterwards to be nourished, and to grow, through the medium of fluids, which are moved and distributed under the influence of this organizing animating principle." Our knowledge being limited to this category, we are compelled to study life in its results or manifestations. These, as we have seen, constitute the Science of Biology or Physiology.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### OF DEATH.

It has wisely entered into the views of Providence, that the existence of all organized bodies should be temporary. Yet we find considerable difference amongst them in this respect. Whilst some of the lower classes of animals and vegetables are no sooner ushered into being than a process of decay appears to commence; others require the lapse of ages for their various developments and declensions; and, as a general rule, those, in which the attainment of growth has been slow, have the period of decrease proportionably postponed; whilst, where maturity has been rapidly attained, decay as rapidly supervenes.

It has been elsewhere shown, that each part of the body as regards the cells that compose it may be considered to have a life of its own,—a cellular life: hence, a minute part may die and be reproduced without the general life of the individual suffering; and in certain of the lower animals, so little is the organism in general affected by injuries to a part, that when the animal is cut in pieces, each piece may undergo a distinct development, so as to form so many separate beings. In the higher animals, however, this is not the case. In them, the death and reproduction of every part of the frame are taking place in the function of nutrition; and it is only when organs, that are intimately associated with each other, and whose association is essential to the life of the whole, have their functions interrupted, that

\* Inquiry into Life and Organization, Edinb. 1822.



the interruption of other functions, and general death follow. The death which takes place in minute parts has been called *molecular*, that of the whole body *somatic*.<sup>a</sup>

The ages of man are numerous and protracted. For a time, the parts of the frame, that are concerned in his developement, unceasingly deposit the necessary particles, by a process as beautiful and as systematic as it is mysterious; until ultimately the growth peculiar to the species and the individual is attained. At this point, the preponderance, which previously existed in the action of the exhalants over the absorbents, appears to cease. All is equality; but, ere long, the exhalants fall off in their wonted activity; the fluids decrease in quantity; the solids become more rigid; and all those changes supervene, which we have described as characterizing the decline of life, and the approach of the phenomenon, which has now to be considered.

Death is the necessary, total, and permanent cessation of those functions, by which the presence of life is characterized. This cessation may happen at all ages from accident or disease; a few only cease gradually to live by the effects of age alone. Hence, a distinction has been made into that kind of death which is produced by the gradual wear and tear of the organs, and that which cuts off the being prematurely from existence. The former has been termed, by some physiologists, *senile* or *natural*; the latter *accidental*. These differ considerably in their physiology; and will, therefore, require a distinct consideration.

1. DEATH FROM OLD AGE.—The *natural period of life* is different in different individuals. It varies according to numerous appreciable and inappreciable circumstances;—the original constitution of the individual; the habits of life; the locality in which he may be situate, &c. Whilst some countries are remarkable for the longevity of their inhabitants, others surprise us by the short period allotted for the natural duration of life.<sup>b</sup> Blumenbach asserts, that by an accurate examination of numerous bills of mortality, he has ascertained the fact, that a considerable proportion of Europeans reach their 84th year, but that a few exceed it; whilst, according to Foderé,<sup>c</sup> in the insalubrious region of Brenne, in France, nature begins to retrograde at from 20 to 30; and 50 years is the usual term of existence. Haller<sup>d</sup> noted one thousand cases of centenarians; sixty-two of from 110 to 120 years; twenty-nine of from 120 to 130; and fifteen who had attained from 130 to 140 years. Beyond this advanced age examples of longevity are much more rare and less sufficiently attested; yet we have some well-authenticated cases of the kind. Thomas Parr, who died in 1635, married when at the age of 120, retained his vigour till 140, and died at the age of 152, from plethora—it was supposed—induced by change of diet. Harvey dissected him and

<sup>a</sup> Carpenter, art. Death, in Cyclop. of Anat. and Physiol., vol. i., and in Human Physiology, § 645, Lond. 1842.

<sup>b</sup> See, on this subject, Bellefroid, Bull. Méd. Belge, Août et Nov. 1839; Lemuel Shattuck, Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences, April, 1841, p. 369; and Traill, Outlines of Med. Jurisprudence, Amer. edit. with notes by the author of this work, p. 30, Philad., 1841.

<sup>c</sup> Traité de Médecine Légale et d'Hygiène Publique, tom. v. p. 537, Paris, 1813.

<sup>d</sup> Element. Physiol. xxx. 3.

found no appearance of decay in any organ.\* Henry Jenkins, who died in Yorkshire, in 1670, is an authentic instance of the greatest longevity on record. He lived 169 years.<sup>b</sup>

The following list of instances of very advanced ages has been given.<sup>c</sup>

	Lived. .	Age.
Apollonius of Tyana, . . . . .	A. D. 99	130
St. Patrick, . . . . .	491	122
Attila, . . . . .	500	124
Llywarch Hen, . . . . .	500	150
St. Coemgene, . . . . .	618	120
Piastus, King of Poland, . . . . .	861	120
Thomas Parr, . . . . .	1635	152
Henry Jenkins, . . . . .	1670	169
Countess of Desmond, . . . . .	1612	145
Thomas Damme, . . . . .	1648	154
Peter Torton, . . . . .	1724	185
Margaret Patten, . . . . .	1739	137
John Rovin and Wife, . . . . .	1741	178 and 164
St. Mongah or Kentigen, . . . . .	1781	185

It would not seem that the natural period of life has differed much in postdiluvian periods. The Psalmist writes:—

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."<sup>d</sup>

And when Barzillai excused himself for not visiting the royal palace at Jerusalem, he observed to the king:—

"I am this day fourscore years old, and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men or singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?"<sup>e</sup>

The census of the United States has strikingly exhibited the influence of races on longevity in the same country. In 1830, according to Professor Tucker,<sup>f</sup> the proportion of whites over 100 years of age, was 1 in 19,529; of free coloured, 1 in 487; and of slaves, 1 in 1410. The census of 1840 confirms this immense difference,—the whites, over 100, were in proportion of 1 in 17,938; the free coloured of 1 in 597; and the slaves of 1 in 1,866. It is not easy to indicate the character of organization, which is most conducive to longevity and to health. It has been supposed, however, and with some probability, that the state of the nervous system is greatly concerned; for the pathologist looks to this part of the frame as the commencement of most if not all fatal maladies.

Much must depend upon the habits of the individual, and upon the degree of toil and exposure to which he has been subjected; and this may partly, if not wholly, account for the greater longevity of women,

\* Philoa. Transact. iii. 1699.

<sup>b</sup> Art. Lebensdauer, in Pierer's Anat. Physiol. Real Wörterbuch, iv. 697, Leipz. 1821.

<sup>c</sup> Prichard, *Researches into the Physical History of Mankind*, 2d edit. i. 421, London, 1836.

<sup>d</sup> Psalm xc.

<sup>e</sup> 2 Samuel, xix. 35. See art. Longevity, by the author, in *Amer. Quarterly Review*, viii. 390, Philad. 1835; Quetelet, *Sur l'Homme, &c.*, Paris, 1835, or English edition, Edinb. 1842; Haller, *Element. Physiol.* xxx. 3; and Rullier, art. Longévité, in *Dict. de Méd.* xiii. 217.

<sup>f</sup> *Progress of the United States in Population and Wealth in Fifty Years*, as exhibited by the Decennial Census, p. 72, New York, 1843.

which in England, as well as in this country,—so far as observation has been made,—is decided. Of fourteen who lived beyond one hundred years in the Philadelphia Hospital, during a period of twelve years,<sup>a</sup> but five were men; and the only two, who exceeded 110 were women, one of whom reached her 119th year, and died of cholera in 1832.

It has been generally considered, that the proportion of deaths to the population in any community may be regarded as an exponent of the *average duration of life* in that community,—that if, for example, in Philadelphia 1 in 45 dies yearly, the average age of all who die must be 45 years. So far as the estimates of the number of the people before any census was taken may be depended upon, it would appear, according to Mr. Chadwick,<sup>b</sup> that the ratio of deaths in London to the population was, at the commencement of the last century, 1 in 20. At the time the first census was taken—in 1801—the ratio within the bills of mortality was 1 in 30. In 1843, it appeared to be 1 in 40. Having had the average ages of death within the bills of mortality calculated from the earliest to the later published returns, he found them, as far as they could be made out from the returns, which are only given in quinquennial and decennial periods, to be as follows:

		Average age.
22 years, from 1728 to 1749,	- - - -	25 years, 1 month.
25 years, from 1750 to 1774,	- - - -	25 " 6 "
25 years, from 1775 to 1799,	- - - -	26 " 0 "
25 years, from 1800 to 1825,	- - - -	29 " 0 "
6 years, from 1825 to 1830,	- - - -	29 " 10 "

Whilst, consequently, it would appear, from the proportionate number of deaths to the population, that the average duration of life had doubled during the last century, the returns of the average ages show that it had only increased about one-fifth. In one year the mortality may be more amongst children, in another amongst the aged; so that whilst the proportion of deaths to the population may be the same, the average of the ages at which death occurred may differ materially.<sup>c</sup>

Generally, the aged individual sinks silently to death, in the manner described under Decrepitude, totally unconscious of all that surrounds him. At other times, however, he preserves his sensorial powers to the last, and may be capable of locomotion; until, owing to some oppression of one or other of the vital functions during sleep, it becomes the sleep of death,—the elasticity of the organs being insufficient to throw off the oppression and resume their functions. At other times, a slight febrile irritation will be the prelude to dissolution. The great characteristic of this kind of death—as pointed out by Bichat in one of the best of his excellent productions<sup>d</sup>—is, that animal life terminates long before organic life. Death takes place in detail,—the animal functions, which connect the aged with the ob-

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Tabb, American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Oct. 1844, p. 373.

<sup>b</sup> Report on the Practice of Interment in Towns, p. 241, London, 1843.

<sup>c</sup> Fifth Annual Report of the Registrar General, &c., London, 1843.

<sup>d</sup> Recherches Physiologiques sur la Vie et la Mort, Paris, 1800.

jects around him being annihilated, long before those that are concerned in his nutrition. Death, in other words, takes place from the circumference towards the centre, whilst in accidental or premature death, the annihilation of the functions begins in the centre and extends to the circumference. As vitality gradually recedes in the aged from the exterior, one of the great centres of vitality—brain, heart, or lungs—stops for an instant. The powers are insufficient to restore the action, and total death necessarily ensues.

It has been an interesting inquiry with physiologists to determine the cause of death thus naturally occurring. Opinions have been various, but such causes as affect the three great vital functions seem to be most entitled to consideration. These have been supposed to be;—*First*, ossification of the arteries, occasioning an obstacle to the free circulation of blood in the parts; *Secondly*, ossification of the cartilages of the ribs, and diminution of the capillary system of the lungs, preventing sanguification; and *Thirdly*, shrivelling and gradual induration of the nervous system, rendering it ultimately unfit for innervation, &c. These are the physical circumstances or changes, which may give occasion to the final cessation of the vital phenomena; but, after all, the difficulty remains,—and one that is insolvable,—to explain the cause why these changes themselves occur in the organs essential to vitality. We say it is insolvable, for, until we have learned the nature of life, which seems far beyond our comprehension in the present state of our knowledge, it is obviously impracticable to understand the phenomena that arise from its gradual declension and final extinction. This kind of death, produced by the gradual declension of the powers of life, is regarded by Dr. W. Philip\* as only the last sleep, characterized by no peculiarity, in which the powers, partly from their own decay, and partly from the lessened sensibility increasing the difficulty of restoring the sensitive system, become incapable of the office, and the individual, therefore, wakes no more. We have before remarked, that there appears to us to be a difference between sleep and death, although they may trend closely on the confines of each other. It is not common, however, for death to occur in this quiet and gradual manner. Man is liable to numerous diseases from the earliest to the latest period of existence, many of which are of a fatal character. It was admitted by Sydenham, whose estimate cannot be regarded as more than an approximation, that two-thirds of mankind die of acute diseases; and that of the remaining one-third, two-thirds, or two-ninths of the whole die of consumption, leaving, consequently, only one-ninth to perish from other chronic maladies, and from pure old age. How small, then, must be the number of those who expire from decrepitude simply!

2. ACCIDENTAL DEATH.—This term has been used by many physiologists to include all kinds of death that befall man in the course of his career, and before the natural term; the cause consisting in the supervention of some accidental organic lesion, which arrests the vital movements before they would cease of themselves. This kind

\* Philosophical Transactions for 1834; and an Inquiry into the Nature of Sleep and Death, p. 166, London, 1834.

of death differs essentially from that which we have been considering. The individual is here, perhaps, in the full possession of all his faculties; his organs have been previously, to all appearance, in the most favourable condition for the prolongation of life; and his death, instead of being natural, and unperceived in its approaches by the individual himself, is usually forced and violent.

Every mode of sudden death commences by the interruption of one of the three great vital acts, circulation, respiration, or innervation. One of these three functions first ceases, and the others die in succession, or the lethiferous influence as in poisons acting through the blood—*necramia*—may affect them all in succession or simultaneously. Each will demand a few remarks.

a. *Death beginning in the Heart.*—When—owing to fatal syncope, to wounds of the heart or great vessels, or to the rupture of an aneurism—the heart is struck with death, the cessation of the functions is speedy. Sensation and motion are lost; respiration is arrested, and death occurs,—if the cause of the cessation of the heart's action be suddenly and sufficiently applied,—almost instantaneously. The order in which death takes place in the different organs, is as follows:—The heart failing to propel its blood, the encephalon and gray matter of the medulla spinalis no longer receive the necessary impulse for the continuance of their functions; they therefore cease to act; the consequence of this is the death of all those organs that receive their nervous influence from them; all voluntary motion is annihilated, as well as the action of the respiratory and other reflex muscles; the mechanical phenomena of respiration are, consequently, arrested, and air is no longer received into the chest. From this cause, then, the chemical phenomena of respiration would cease, were they not previously rendered unnecessary by the cessation of the heart's action. The phenomena of nutrition, secretion, and calorification,—functions of the capillaries,—yield last. Dr. C. J. B. Williams\* divides death beginning at the heart into two modes—*sudden*, as in syncope, and *gradual*, as in asthenia. In the latter case, however, where the cessation of action of the different organs occurs from want of power, as in exhausting diseases, it is not easy to say in all cases which is the first link in the chain of fatal phenomena.

b. *Death beginning in the Nervous Centres.*—This may occur in the encephalon, or in the gray matter of the medulla spinalis. In the former case, owing to the loss of innervation,—as in severe injury done to the head, or the worst attacks of apoplexy,—the sensorial functions first cease, and the individual lies deprived of sensation, volition, and mental and moral manifestation—*coma*:—respiration continues, owing to the reflex nervous system being secondarily affected only; but it becomes progressively more irregular and laborious, and ultimately ceases. The order of death is here as follows:—the interruption of the brain's action destroys first that of the voluntary, and secondly that of the mixed muscles; the mechanical phenomena of respiration therefore cease, and then the chemical.

\* Principles of Medicine, Amer. edit. by Dr. Clymer, p. 363, Philad. 1844.

This is followed by cessation of the heart's action, owing to the united loss of nervous influx from the brain, and the want of a due supply of blood. To the cessation of the heart's action succeeds the loss of the general circulation; and lastly, that of the functions of nutrition, secretion, and calorification. It rarely perhaps happens, that death arises from sudden arrest of action in the true spinal or reflex system. In such case all the muscles, that are animated by this portion of the nervous system, would become at once paralysed.

c. *Death beginning in the Lungs.—Death by Asphyxia or Apnœa.*—The action of the lungs may be destroyed in two ways: either the mechanical phenomena of respiration may first cease, as in hanging, strangulation, &c., when the air is prevented from reaching the lungs; or the chemical phenomena may be first arrested, as when air is breathed, which does not contain oxygen, but yet can be respired for a time. In the first case, the order of death is as follows:—the mechanical phenomena cease; to this succeeds cessation of the chemical phenomena, owing to the supply of air being cut off; the blood, not experiencing the necessary conversion in the lungs, soon stagnates in the pulmonary capillaries: for a time, however, the heart continues to beat, owing to the aeration effected by the residuary air in the minute bronchial ramifications; but this soon ceases in consequence of the want of supply of blood; the nervous centres die, and the other parts in succession.\* Where the chemical phenomena first cease, the suspension of the action of the nervous centres follows for the cause already assigned; and the mechanical phenomena of respiration are not arrested, until the nervous influx is cut off by the death of that organ.<sup>b</sup>

Dr. Williams adds another chief variety of the modes of death,—*Death beginning in the Blood—Necramia.* In this variety, owing to poisonous influences, as in typhus and other malignant fevers, the life or characters of the blood become annihilated suddenly, or progressively. Death, however, in this case, must still be occasioned by the lethiferous influence exerted by the blood on one or more of the three great vital functions.

The immediate phenomena of death and the order of their succession are easily understood, when one of the great centres of vitality is suddenly destroyed either from accident or disease; but when death does not follow immediately, and time is allowed for a series of morbid phenomena to be established, the problem becomes much more complicated. Some organ or structure is first deranged; and, owing to the intimate connexion, which, as we have elsewhere seen, exists between the various functions, general derangement or irritation follows, and the individual dies, worn out by such irritation, but without our being exactly able to understand on which of the great centres that dispense vitality the malign influence has been exerted, or whether it may not have affected all equally. In inflammation of

\* See the article *Asphyxia*, by the author, in the *American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery*, part x., Philad. 1836; and in his *Practice of Medicine*, 2d edit. vol. i., p. 408, Philad. 1844.

<sup>b</sup> Bichat, *op. cit.*; Ollivier, *art. Mort.*, in *Dict. de Méd.* xx. 242, Paris, 1839.

the brain, heart, or lungs, we may presume, that the functions of these organs have been respectively annihilated by the diseased action; and that as such functions are essential to the existence of vitality, death may arise in the manner we have already described. But we frequently find the bowels, or the peritoneum lining the interior of the abdomen, affected with inflammation; and the case, if neglected, is as surely attended with fatal consequences as the same morbid affection of the organs termed vital; and this in a space of time so short, as not to enable us to understand the nature or the mode of action of the lethiferous agent: but that it must exert its influence on one or more of the great centres of vitality is manifest. In many cases, the heart seems to yield first, not suddenly but gradually; the brain, failing to receive its due impulse, becomes progressively unfit for transmitting the nervous influence to the muscles; insensibility gradually supervenes, until it has attained such an extent, that no nervous influence is sent to the respiratory muscles, when cessation of their action naturally ensues. Of the nature, however, of the morbid condition of the heart, thus induced by disease, we are totally ignorant. It is fashionable to say, that death is produced by irritation, but this is merely concealing our deficiency of knowledge under a term, the explanation of the agency of which comprises the whole difficulty. Adelon\* thinks, that the brain generally gives way first in these cases; in consequence of which the respiration is disturbed, the lung becomes engorged, the respiration difficult, and death occurs as in a case of gradual asphyxia. There is something extremely obscure in these cases. It often happens, that the intellectual manifestations and the nervous distribution to the muscles of voluntary motion will be executed, even vigorously, until a short time prior to dissolution, whilst the feeble, irregular, and intermittent beat of the heart may indicate how greatly its irritability is morbidly implicated.

These remarks are chiefly applicable to death, as it arises from the numerous acute affections, which are so fatal to mankind; but it may occur, also, from those, that persist for a great length of time, and destroy after months or years of morbid irritation, as in cases of calculi of the bladder, engorgements of the viscera, &c. In these cases, likewise, death must ultimately result from the destruction of one or other of the vital functions,—respiration, circulation, or innervation; but, in a manner so gradual, that it takes place nearly in the same way as in old age; except that, in all cases, it proceeds from the centre to the circumference; the great internal functions first ceasing, and afterwards their dependencies,—a difference which explains why we are justified in attempting means of resuscitation in sudden death, whilst it would be the height of absurdity to have recourse to them where,

“Like a clock worn out with eating time,  
The wheels of weary life at last stand still.”

\* *Physiologie de l'Homme*, 2de édit. iv. 472, Paris, 1829.

The renovation could only be effected by the substitution of new, for the worn out, machinery.<sup>a</sup>

It has been already shown (vol. ii. p. 445), that there are certain causes of death, which affect the two sexes in infancy to a different extent; and the same fact is exhibited when the ratio of deaths of the male and female is taken at all ages.<sup>b</sup> The following table, from the valuable statistical report now annually made by the direction of the British government, shows this in a striking manner.<sup>c</sup>

Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.			
	1838.		1839.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Cancer - -	620	1,828	660	2,031
Hooping-cough - -	4,036	5,071	3,683	4,469
Consumption - -	27,935	31,090	28,106	31,453
Child-birth - -		2,811		2,915
Violent deaths - -	8,359	3,368	8,325	3,307
Hydrocephalus - -	4,242	3,430	4,313	3,436
Diabetes - -	153	55	151	63
Convulsions - -	14,549	11,498	14,245	11,163
Delirium tremens - -	167	15	184	22
Tetanus - -	100	29	102	20
Bronchitis - -	1,193	874	916	747
Pleurisy - -	329	253	342	246
Pneumonia - -	9,887	8,112	10,000	8,151
Asthma - -	3,359	2,366	3,092	2,091
Pericarditis - -	74	50	83	52
Aneurism - -	88	31	69	33
Hernia - -	318	189	299	175
Fistula - -	82	18	81	22
Stone - -	282	38	274	25
Cystitis - -	103	25	118	20
Nephritis - -	113	44	99	32
Gout - -	161	46	170	45
Droopy - -	5,170	7,172	5,268	6,983
Intemperance - -	125	36	178	40
Starvation by want, cold, &c. }	126	41	85	45

The subjoined diagram from M. Quetelet<sup>d</sup> exhibits the relative viability of the two sexes deduced by him from numerous statistical inquiries. The dotted line represents the viability of the female: the other that of the male. According to this, the maximum of viability is at the age of 14 in both sexes. After puberty, it diminishes more rapidly in the female than in the male. It is also less during the period of childbearing, from the 27th to the 45th year. The age of

<sup>a</sup> See, on all this subject, Ollivier, op. cit.; Lehfeldt, art. Tod, & Todtenstarre, in Encyclopæd. Wörterb. der Medicinisch. Wissenschaft. vol. xxxiii., Berlin, 1845; C. J. R. Williams, Principles of Medicine, Amer. edit., by Dr. Clymer, p. 362, Philad. 1844; and Watson's Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic, Amer. edit., by Dr. Condie, p. 50, Philad. 1845.

<sup>b</sup> See, H. Mayo, Outlines of Human Pathology, Dunglison's American Medical Library edit. Introduct. p. 3. Philad. 1839.

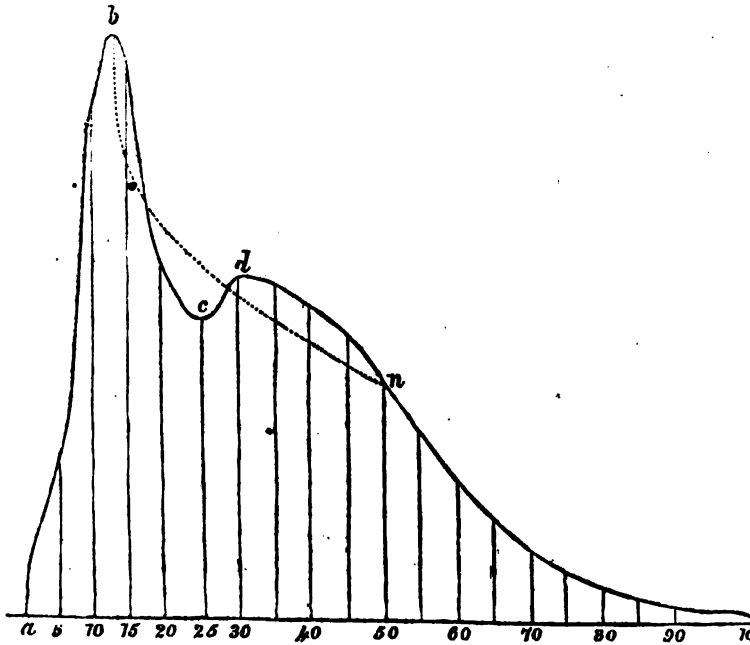
<sup>c</sup> Mr. W. Farr, in Third Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in England, p. 72. Lond. 1841.

<sup>d</sup> Op. cit. English edit. p. 32. Edinb. 1843.



shortest viability is immediately after birth; that of the longest viability immediately before puberty. The viability of the child after the first month of existence, according to M. Quetelet, is greater than

Fig. 366.



*Curve indicating the viability or existibility of male and female at different ages.—(Quetelet.)*

that of the man nearly 100 years old. Towards the 75th year, it is scarcely greater than for the infant about the sixth month after birth.

For some time before dissolution,—both in death from old age and from disease,—the indications of the fatal event become more and more apparent. The speech grows embarrassed; the ideas are incoherent; the hands, if raised by the effort of the will, fall inertly into their former position; the laboured respiration occasions insufficient hæmatisation, and the distress excites an attempt at respiration, which the debility renders nearly ineffectual; distressing yawnings and gaspings occur to remedy the defective pulmonary action, and the whole respiratory system is in forcible and agitated motion,—the teeth, at times, gnashing, and convulsive contractions occurring at the corners of the mouth. The heart becomes gradually unable to propel the blood with the necessary force into the arteries, so that the fluid ceases to reach the extremities of the body—the hands, feet, nose, and ears—which grow cold, and a cold clammy moisture oozes from the vessels. In experiments on animals, the

blood is found to be gradually driven no farther than to the feet; then to the groin; afterwards it reaches only to the kidneys, and a kind of reflux occurs through the space along which it had previously been urged forwards. The flux and reflux now reach no farther than the diaphragm, and gradually retreat, until the blood flows back upon the heart itself, which now stops for a time, and then makes an effort to free itself from the contained fluid. The heart's action and respiration are imperfectly performed for a few times at irregular intervals, till at length the contractility of the organ is entirely gone. Respiration ceases by a strong expulsion of air from the chest,—often accompanied with a sigh or a groan, and probably arising in part from the relaxation of the inspiratory muscles, but still more from the elasticity of the cartilages of the ribs. Hence it is that, in common language, to *expire* is synonymous with to *die*. In cases of sudden death, the heart may continue to beat for a while after innervation and respiration have ceased.

For some time immediately preceding dissolution, there is usually a peculiar mixed expression of countenance,—a compound of apparent mental and corporeal suffering,—which has given occasion to its being called the *agony*. It is characterized by facial indications, which were first well described by Hippocrates, and from him called *Facies Hippocratica*. The nose is pinched; the eyes are sunken; the temples hollow; the ears cold and retracted; the skin of the forehead tense; the lips pendent, relaxed, and cold. The eye, during this condition, especially when dissolution approaches, is fixed and slightly elevated, being kept in that position, according to Sir Charles Bell, by the power of the brain over the voluntary muscles of the eye being lost, and the organ being given up to the action of the oblique, which he considers to be involuntary muscles. The word “*agony*,” applied to this condition, means in many languages a violent contest or strife, but its acceptance has been extended so as to embrace what have been termed the “*pangs of death*” and any violent pain. This agony of death, however, physiologically speaking, instead of being a state of mental and corporeal turmoil and anguish, is one of insensibility. The hurried and laboured breathing, the peculiar sound on inspiration, and the fixed and turned up eyeball, instead of being evidences of suffering, are now admitted to be signs of the brain having lost all, or almost all, sensibility to impressions. All the indications of mortal strife are such in appearance only; even the convulsive agitations, occasionally perceived, are of the nature of epileptic spasms, which we know to be produced in total insensibility, and to afford no real evidence of corporeal suffering.

Although, from the moment that respiration and circulation permanently cease, the body may be regarded as unquestionably dead, vital properties still remain in some of the organs, the presence of which is an evidence that vitality has previously and recently existed. The functions, which persist after the animal has become dead to surrounding objects, are those that belong to the organic class. Absorption is said to have occurred after death, and the beard and hair to have

grown. To a certain degree this growth is possible, in parts that are nourished by imbibition; but the apparent elongation of the hair may be owing to the shrinking of the integuments. The rectum is very frequently evacuated after dissolution; and cases have occurred where a child has been born by the contraction of the uterus after the death of the mother. The most marked evidence, however, of the continuance of a vital property after dissolution, is in the case of the muscles, which, as we have mentioned in another place, can be made to contract powerfully on the application of an appropriate stimulus, even for an hour or two after death. Nysten,<sup>a</sup> from his experiments, inferred, that the parts cease to contract in the following order:—the left ventricle, the large intestine, the small intestine, the stomach, the bladder, the right ventricle, the œsophagus, the iris, the different voluntary muscles, and, lastly, the auricles, particularly the right auricle.

The body cools gradually at the surface, and especially towards the extremities. In many cases, however, instead of gradually cooling, the temperature actually rises. Dr. John Davy<sup>b</sup> had noticed, that after death from fever, the thermometer, placed under the left ventricle of the heart, indicated, in one case, a temperature of 113°; but the temperature before death was not noted, and he was induced to believe, that the elevated temperature was generated before death, and “probably in the same way as the ordinary degree of animal heat, experienced in health, or the extraordinary degree witnessed in febrile diseases.” Recent experiments, however, by Dr. Dowler,<sup>c</sup> of New Orleans, have satisfactorily shown, that the increased production of heat, which he noticed in yellow fever cases, actually occurs after the cessation of respiration and circulation, and only ceases with the putrefactive process. In one case, for example, the highest temperature during life was in the axilla, 104°; ten minutes after death it was 109° in the axilla; fifteen minutes afterwards, it was in the thigh 113°; in twenty minutes, the liver gave 112°; in one hour and forty minutes, the heart gave 109°,—the thigh, in the old incision, 109°; and in three hours after removing all the viscera, a new incision in the thigh gave 110°. It is curious, that the maximum of observed heat after death was in the thigh. The following table by Dr. Dowler exhibits the highest amount of temperature observed in eight different regions in different subjects.

Thigh.	Epigastrium.	Axilla.	Chest.	Heart.	Brain.	Rectum.	Liver.
113°	111°	109°	107°	109°	102°	111°	112°
109	110	109	106·5	106	101	109	109
109	109	108	106	105	101	107	108
109	109	108	106	104	100	107	107
108	109	107	105	104	99	106	106
Mean 109·4	109·6	108·2	106·1	105·6	100·6	108	108·4

<sup>a</sup> Recherches de Physiologie et de Chimie Pathologiques, Paris, 1811.

<sup>b</sup> Recherches, Physiological and Pathological, Amer. edit. p. 328, Philad. 1840.

<sup>c</sup> Medical Examiner, June, 1845, cited from Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery, June and October, 1844.

It appears from Dr. Davy, Dr. Dowler, and Dr. Benjamin Hensley, jr.,<sup>a</sup> who instituted some observations at the Philadelphia hospital, at the request of the author, that the brain produces less heat after death than the contents of the other splanchnic cavities.

The bearing of these phenomena on the question of calorification has been noticed elsewhere.

Whilst the refrigeration of the body is going on, the blood remains more or less fluid; and owing to the arteries emptying themselves, by virtue of their elasticity, of their contained blood, the fluid generally accumulates in the *venæ cavæ*, the auricles of the heart, and the vessels of the lungs. By virtue of its gravity, it collects also in the most depending parts, occasioning cadaveric hyperæmiæ, suggillations or livid marks, which might be mistaken for bruises inflicted during life; but may generally be distinguished from them by attention. It will be readily understood, that the situation of the blood in the vessels may differ somewhat according to the vital organ which first ceases its functions. If the action of the right heart stops, the lung may be empty; if the lung or left heart ceases, the lung and the right side of the heart—with the vessels communicating with it—may be surcharged with blood, whilst the organs of the corporeal circulation may be almost empty. During the progress of refrigeration, and especially soon after death, the muscles are soft and relaxed, so that the limbs fall into that position to which the force of gravity would bring them; the eyes are half open; the lips and lower jaw pendant, and the pupil dilated. When the body, however, is cold, the blood is coagulated, and white or yellowish coagula exist, especially in the cavities of the heart, which were at one time supposed to be morbid formations, and termed *polypi*. They take the shape, more or less, of the cavity in which they are found. Lastly, the muscles become firmly contracted, so that no part can be moved without the application of considerable force; and, in this state, they continue until the natural progress towards putrefaction again softens their fibres. This has been regarded, by physiologists as arising from the last exertion of that residue of vital power, which the body retains after the period of apparent dissolution. With more propriety, perhaps, the *rigor mortis* may be assigned to physical alterations taking place in the organs, owing to the total loss of those powers, which were previously antagonists to such changes. It has been attributed, by M. Brück,<sup>b</sup> to the coagulation of the liquids in the interior of the tissues. He considers, that the fibrin of the muscle coagulates, when the muscular fibre is deprived of life. By some, the muscular contraction, which gives occasion to the *rigor mortis*, is held to be of the same kind as that which takes place under the influence of the nervous stimulus, although differing as to its conditions. When very strong, it renders the muscles prominent, as in voluntary contraction; and Dr. Carpenter<sup>c</sup> thinks the comparative observations of Mr. Bowman upon the state of muscular fibre passing into this condition, and

<sup>a</sup> Medical Examiner, March, 1846, p. 149.

<sup>b</sup> Müller's Archiv., Nov. 1842; cited in Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journ. Oct. 1843, p. 492.

<sup>c</sup> Principles of Human Physiology, 2d. edit. p. 324, Lond. 1844.

upon that which presented various degrees of contraction from ordinary causes, leave no doubt as to their correspondence. The conditions are certainly, however, very different, for the power of the muscle to contract on the application of appropriate stimuli is lost before the rigor mortis sets in.<sup>a</sup>

It might seem from the previous enumeration of the signs of death, that no difficulty could possibly arise in discriminating between a living and a dead body. Cases have, however, occurred, where such difficulty has been great and perplexing. Many of the signs may exist, and yet the person be merely in a state of suspended animation; and in certain instances it has even been considered advisable to wait for the manifestations of the putrefactive process, before the body should be consigned to the grave. The following case, given by Dr. Gordon Smith,<sup>b</sup> strongly exhibits the embarrassment that may occasionally arise. A stout young man had been subject to epilepsy, which became combined with madness. On this account it was necessary to remove him to a private asylum in the neighbourhood of London, where he died suddenly, in a violent epileptic paroxysm. The body was removed to the residence of his friends soon after death, when the necessary preparations for interment were made. On paying attention to the corpse it was found, that the limbs were quite pliable; that the eye was neither collapsed nor glazed; and that the whole features retained their full natural appearance as during life. A surgeon, who, for years, had been in the habit of attending him, was sent for; and although he could find no indications of vitality, he prudently recommended, that the interment should not take place until decomposition had begun to manifest itself. In the course of two or three days, appearances still continuing the same, a physician was called in, who concurred in the recommendation that had been already given. Fifteen days from the supposed time of his death had elapsed, when Dr. Smith's informant had an opportunity of inspecting the body. At this time, the countenance retained the appearance described, but the eye seemed beginning to sink, and some degree of lividity had commenced on the surface of the abdomen. The joints were still flexible. At this time, a very eminent professor of anatomy viewed the body, and, considering the hesitation that had prevailed to be altogether groundless, he appointed the following day to examine it internally. The head was accordingly opened, and a considerable extravasation of blood found in the posterior part of the cranium, between the skull and dura mater and between the membranes and substance of the brain. No serum was detected in the ventricles; but the brain itself was remarkably hard. This was sixteen days after death. On the following day, the body was interred. A clamour now arose amongst the neighbours, that he had been prematurely handed over to the anatomist. The body was exhumed; an inquest was held; and the evidence of the medical gentleman demanded. The jury returned a verdict of "apoplexy."

It may hence become a matter of medico-legal inquiry to verify the

<sup>a</sup> Mr. Paget's Reports, in Brit. and For. Med. Rev. and Ibid., Jan. 1845, p. 259.

<sup>b</sup> The Principles of Forensic Medicine, 2d edit., Lond. 1827.

existence of death, in cases where doubt prevails owing to the person being in a state of apparent death,—natural or assumed.\*

Perhaps the most singular case on record of suspension of two of the most important of the vital functions occurred to John Hunter. In the year 1769, being then forty-one years of age, of a sound constitution, and subject to no disease except a casual fit of the gout, he was suddenly attacked with a pain in the stomach, which was speedily succeeded by a total suspension of the action of the heart and of the lungs. By violent exertion of the will he occasionally inflated the lungs, but over the heart he had no control whatever; nor, although he was attended by four of the chief physicians in London from the first, could the action of either be restored by medicine. In about three-quarters of an hour, however, the vital actions began to return of their own accord, and in two hours he was perfectly recovered. "In this attack," says one of his biographers, Sir Everard Home, "there was a suspension of the most material involuntary actions: even involuntary breathing was stopped; while sensation, with its consequences, as thinking and acting, with the will, were perfect, and all the voluntary actions were as strong as ever."<sup>b</sup>

At one period it was universally credited, that substances could be administered, which might arrest the whole of the vital functions, or cause them to go on so obscurely as to escape detection. This erroneous popular notion is exhibited in the description of the action of the drug administered by Friar Lawrence to Juliet.<sup>c</sup>

Death may also be feigned for sinister purposes. The author recollects a body having been brought in a sack to the house of Mr. Brookes, the distinguished anatomist of London, the vitality of which was detected by the warmth of a protruded toe. It was that of a robber, who had chosen this method of obtaining admission within the premises.

The celebrated case of Colonel Townshend exhibits the power occasionally possessed over the vital functions; and Dr. Cleghorn, of Glasgow, knew an individual who could feign death, and had so com-

\* See Dr. J. A. Symonds, in art. Death, *Cyclopædia of Anat. and Physiol.* i. 791, Lond. 1836.

<sup>b</sup> See, also, Ottery's *Life of John Hunter*, Bell's Med. Lib. edit. p. 38, Philad. 1839; and Hunter, *On the Blood*, by Palmer, Bell's edit. p. 189, Philad. 1840.

<sup>c</sup> "Take thou this phial, being then in bed,  
And this distilled liquor drink thou off;  
When presently thro' all thy veins shall run  
A cold and drowsy humour, which shall seize  
Each vital spirit: for no pulse shall keep  
His natural progress, but surcease to beat.  
No warmth, no breath, shall testify thou liv'st;  
The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade  
To pale ashes; the eyes' windows fall  
Like death, when he shuts up the day of life;  
Each part, depriv'd of supple government,  
Shall stiff, and stark, and cold, appear like death:  
And in this borrow'd likeness of shrunk death,  
Thou shalt remain full two-and-forty hours,  
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep."

*Romeo and Juliet*, iv. 1.

pletely the power of suspending, or at least of diminishing, the action of the heart, that its pulsations were imperceptible.\*

Lastly, the character of the death, as to violence<sup>a</sup> or gradual extinction, is often exhibited in the physiognomy of the dead. Where it has taken place during a convulsion, or by agents that have forcibly and suddenly arrested respiration or innervation, the countenance may be livid, the jaws clenched, the tongue protruded and caught between the teeth, the eyes forced, as it were, from their sockets; but usually in death from old age, or even from acute and tormenting disease, any distortion or mark of suffering that may have existed prior to dissolution subsides after the spirit has passed, and the features exhibit a placidity of expression singularly contrasting with their previously excited condition. For effect, however, the poet and the painter suit their descriptions of death to the character of the individual whom they are depicting.<sup>b</sup> The tyrant falls convulsed and agonized, whilst the tender and delicate female is described to have progressively withered, till

" At last,  
Without a groan, or sigh, or glance to show  
A parting pang, the spirit from her past ;  
And they who watched her nearest could not know  
The very instant, till the change that cast  
Her sweet face into shadow, dull and slow  
Glazed o'er her eyes—the beautiful, the black,—  
Oh ! to possess such lustre, and then lack."

*Byron's Don Juan, canto iv.*

Warwick's description of the frightful physiognomy of Duke Humphrey after death from suffocation exhibits some of this poetical license :—

" But see his face is black and full of blood ;  
His eyeballs farther out than when he lived,  
Staring full ghastly like a strangled man :  
His hair uproar'd, his nostrils stretch'd with struggling :  
His hands abroad displayed, as one that grasp'd  
And tugg'd for life, and was by strength subdued.  
Look on the sheets ; his hair you see is sticking :  
His well-proportioned beard made rough and rugged,  
Like to the summer's corn by tempest lodged.—  
It cannot be but he was murdered here :  
The least of all these signs were probable."

*King Henry VI., Part ii. Act 3.*

How different is this picture from that of the countenance of the young being, who has gradually sunk to death in the manner above described. The beauty is unextinguished, and the paleness and lividity of death have taken the place of the colours of life ; yet the wonted physiognomy may remain :—

" Hush'd were his Gertrude's lips ! but still their bland  
And beautiful expression seem'd to melt  
With love that could not die !"

*Campbell.*

Perhaps one of the most beautiful and accurate pictures, drawn by Byron, is his description of the serenity of countenance observable

<sup>a</sup> See, also, the case of the Hindoo, mentioned at p. 139 of this volume.

<sup>b</sup> Sir C. Bell, *The Anatomy and Philosophy of Expression*, 3d edit. p. 185, Lond. 1844.

in most fresh corpses; an expression, which, by association, is deeply affecting, but not without its consolation to the friends of the departed:—

He who hath bent him o'er the dead  
Ere the first day of death is fled;

Before decay's effacing fingers  
Have swept the lines where beauty lingers;  
And mark'd the mild angelic air,  
The rapture of repose that's there;  
The fix'd yet tender traits, that streak  
The languor of the placid cheek;  
And but for that sad, shrouded eye,  
That fires not,—wins not,—weeps not now;  
And but for that chill, changeless brow,  
Where cold obstruction's apathy  
Appeals the gazing mourner's heart,  
As if to him it could impart  
The doom he dreads, yet dwells upon:  
Yes, but for these and these alone,  
Some moments, ay, one treach'rous hour,  
He still might doubt the tyrant's power.  
So fair, so calm, so softly seal'd,  
The first, last look by death reveal'd.

*Byron's Giaour.*

An easy death—euthanasia—is what all desire, and fortunately, whatever may have been the previous pangs, the closing scene, in most ailments, is generally of this character. In the beautiful mythology of the ancients, Death was the daughter of Night, and sister of Sleep. She was the only divinity to whom no sacrifice was made, because it was felt that no human interference could arrest her arm; yet her approach was contemplated without any physical apprehension. The representation of Death as a skeleton covered merely with skin, on the monument at Cumæ, was not the common allegorical picture of the period. It was generally depicted on tombs as a friendly genius, holding a wreath in his hand, with an inverted torch,—a sleeping child, winged, with an inverted torch resting on his wreath, or as Love, with a melancholy air, his legs crossed, leaning on an inverted torch,—the inverted torch being a beautiful emblem of the gradual self-extinguishment of the vital flame.\* The disgusting representations of Death from the contents of the charnel-house would not seem to have been common until the austerity of the 14th century, and are beginning to be abandoned. In more recent times, Death has been portrayed as a beautiful youth, and it is under this form that he is represented by Canova, on the monument erected in St. Peter's at Rome, by George the Fourth of England, in honour of the Stuarts.

\* D'Israeli, *Curiosities of Literature*, 2d Series, Amer. edit. vol. ii. p. 44. Boston, 1834.



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